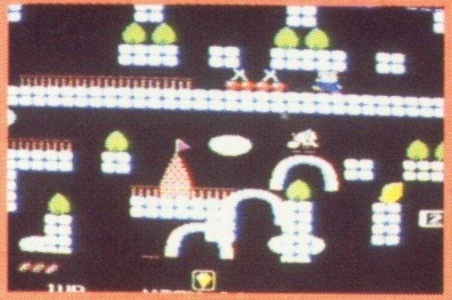
form fans after a challenge.
OVERALL 82%

RAINBOW ISLANDS

Oh no! The Rainbow Islands have been occupied by the Boss of Shadow, Baron von Blubba and his nasty little minions. It's up to Bub and his power of the rainbow to put a stop to Blubba's skylarking over seven levels of vertically scrolling platform action. This is a good conversion of the Taito coin-op, ruined by slow gameplay and poor response.
OVERALL 67%

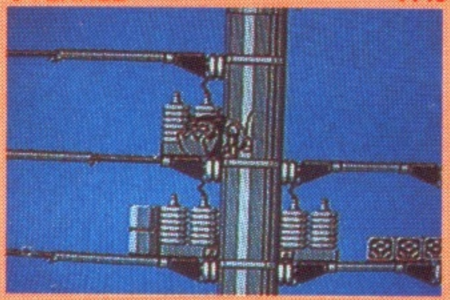


RC PRO-AM

RC Pro-AM is one of the most playable NES titles around. Both the graphics and sound are spot-on and there's plenty of action to keep you going for a long time as you race a variety of radio controlled vehicles around a series of very tight tracks against mad computer drivers. A must!
OVERALL 90%

RESCUE

Based on the French computer game, Hostages, this is a multi-level assault game, casting you as leader of a bunch of SAS guys out to ruin some terrorists' plans for world domination and rescue (hence the title) some hostages. The graphics and sound are poor, but the real problem with Rescue is that each sub-level is very dull and too easy to complete.
OVERALL 41%

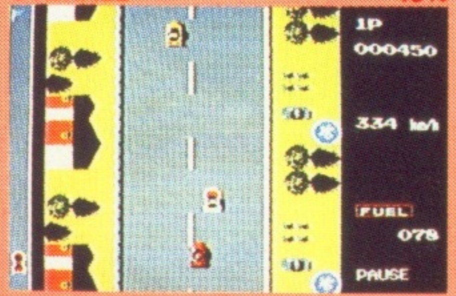


RESCUE RANGERS

Those cheeky chipmunks, Chip 'n' Dale hit the Nintendo in a platform game of their very own, programmed by coin-op giants, Capcom. With one or simultaneous two-player options, Rescue Rangers is fast, smooth, cute and playable. A very good game that should appeal to platform fans.
OVERALL 88%

ROAD BLASTERS

If you were a fan of arcade Road Blasters this conversion may come as a disappointment. The graphics and sound are fairly well reproduced, but it certainly doesn't play the same. It's just far too easy, and any competent player should get through all 50 levels in a few games. Once completed, Road Blasters doesn't have much to attract you back for more.
OVERALL 48%



ROAD FIGHTER

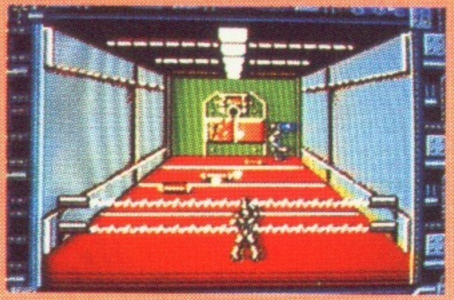
Brace yourself for what must rank as the worst console game EVER! Road Fighter is a vertically scrolling road race game a little like Spy Hunter, but without the extra weapons, decent graphics or gameplay. Indeed, the scabrous, retarded game we have here is devoid of all fun and excitement-inducing qualities and is a complete waste of money.
OVERALL 9%

ROBOCOP

The film's great, but this game is sad. Rubbish graphics, dire sound, sluggish controls and very repetitive gameplay don't makes things much fun in this platform game. Considering the all-action movie, a lot more should have been made of this.
OVERALL 60%

ROBO WARRIOR

An original, but ultimately dull game in which you bomb your way through a series of baddie-packed screens. It sounds more exciting than it is because the action is so limited and slow.
OVERALL 51%



RUSH 'N' ATTACK

Otherwise known as Green Beret, this is a fairly simplistic but very compulsive beat 'em up packed with senseless violence. The graphics and sound are adequate rather than outstanding, but they do the job and help make this a bloody, enjoyable rough-house romp.
OVERALL 83%

RYGAR

The graphics in this beat 'em up are okey-dokey and the gameplay is fairly interesting (thanks to the nice weapons), but on the whole, Rygar is probably only worth buying if you remember enjoying the coin-op.
OVERALL 70%

SECTION Z

If you've ever wished for a Side Arms-type game for the NES, this is probably the nearest thing to it, though don't take that as a recommendation. The game is severely lacking in excitement just because it's so repetitive and the weapons are completely weedy. Save your money and your sanity.
OVERALL 46%

720 DEGREES

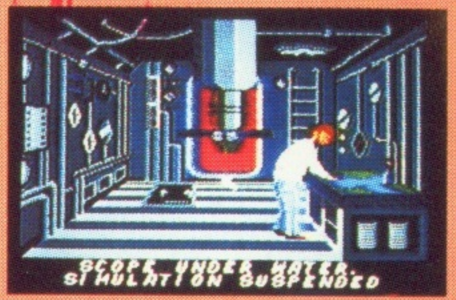
This is a very decent conversion of the old Atari skateboarding coin-op which sports plenty of challenge and variety. A must for fans of the coin-op and skateboarders in general.
OVERALL 84%

SHADOWGATE

Shadowgate is an icon-driven adventure game crammed with frustrating puzzles and thousands of unfair sudden death scenarios. The solutions to each puzzle are completely illogical (OPEN a skull to find a key? We think not), making for an annoying adventure with crappy graphics and nauseating sound to boot.
OVERALL 26%

SHADOW WARRIOR

Join Ryu as he runs around the scrolling platforms levels, meting out ninja death to the evil minions of the Overlord. Converted from the coin-op, this a great slash 'em up that's well-presented with groovy graphics and sound. This is challenging and superb fun and well worth your pounds sterling.
OVERALL 90%



SILENT SERVICE

A submarine simulation? On the NES? Yes indeed, and while it might sound boring, it's not. It's addictive and involved and is a must for those who want to use their Nintendo to play more than just platform games and shoot 'em ups.
OVERALL 87%

SIMON'S QUEST

On the surface, Simon's Quest isn't much more than an extended version of the original with a few additions to the gameplay. Having said that, the original was pretty good, so the follow-up can only be even better. There's not a lot of variety, but hardened arcade adventure fans should find the gloomy atmosphere is most engrossing.
OVERALL 85%

SKATE OR DIE

Skate or Die is divided into five different sections: the downhill race, freestyle on a half-pipe, downhill jam where you fight an opponent, half-pipe high jump and pool joust where you battle other players. It's a fun game with great graphics and is highly recommended to board thrashers.
OVERALL 82%

SMASH TV

Williams' amazing shoot 'em up coin-op, based on the classic Robotron 2084, is one of the most violent games in history! This NES conversion is a technical miracle with loads of sprites on-screen at once! The game also incorporates all the speech and power-ups of the coin-op too. One of the best Nintendo shooters available!
OVERALL 90%

SNAKE, RATTLE 'N' ROLL

Guide your snake around the forced 3D backdrops, eating nibbley-pibbleys and dodging a number of bizarre sprites. Rare strike again with an extremely playable, technically amazing Nintendo game that simply demands purchase!
OVERALL 94%

SNAKE'S REVENGE

Snake (the hero of Metal Gear) is back, and this time he's vowed to destroy a jungle-based legion of enemies. This generally involved running around the jungle (for jungle, read maze), blowing away enemies and rescuing hostages. Snake's Revenge is extremely difficult to play, slow, unrewarding and tedious.
OVERALL 49%

SOCCER

The action in this football game is a little slow, and the graphics are only adequate but it plays quite while and that's what counts. And even though it's positively ancient, it's still miles better than all the newer Nintendo football games.
OVERALL 83%

SOLAR JETMAN

The action is very similar to the old coin-op Gravitar, but there's much more to Solar Jetman as you explore a series of planets looking for pieces of the Golden Warpship. The playability is superlative, the graphics are great and the sound is similarly excellent. Put all those factors together and you've got a simply brilliant Nintendo title which is an essential part of your collection.
OVERALL 95%

SOLOMON'S KEY

This is an excellent conversion of the Data East coin-op, which is one of the best arcade puzzle games out. If you're after some mental stimulation from your Nintendo this has got to be somewhere on the shopping list.
OVERALL 83%

SOLSTICE

This is the first game from English firm, Software Creations, and it's a goodie! Guide your little man around the forced perspective backdrops, solving puzzles and blatting meanies. With its excellent graphics, amazing sound and involving gameplay, Solstice is an essential purchase.
OVERALL 90%

SPY VS SPY

Based on the MAD magazine comic strips, Spy vs Spy is one of the finest two-player games ever, just because of the vast potential for playing super-sneaky tricks on your computer, or better still, human opponent. It doesn't have the best graphics and sound in the world, but if you have another gamer at hand willing to play you, this is a must.
OVERALL 84%

SUPER MARIO BROTHERS

Originally this was the game Nintendo gave away free with the machine - and what a terrific freebie! It's a truly classic platform game that's just so skillfully put together and is so much fun that once you've started playing it's impossible to stop. One of the best games anywhere, ever.
OVERALL 95%

SUPER MARIO BROTHERS II

This is a superb follow-up to Super Mario Brothers, with terrific graphics, great music and super addictive platform gameplay. An utter must - along with all the other Mario games.
OVERALL 96%

SUPER MARIO BROTHERS III

Mario and Luigi return for their last 8-bit outing - and it's one of the finest video games ever devised. Featuring almost-perfect playability, excellent graphics and sound along with a massive challenge, Super Mario Bros III is THE essential cart to buy for your Nintendo.
OVERALL 98%

SUPER OFF-ROAD

Ivan "Ironman" Stewart's Super Off-Road is a superior Super Sprint-style NES game, that's great fun when playing with the four-player Four Score adaptor. It's yet another skill Rare game, and a very close coin-op conversion. The repetitive nature of the game may put some people off, especially when played in one-player mode.
OVERALL 81%

SUPER SPIKE VOLLEYBALL

Visit the beaches of America to participate in a series of Volleyball matches in this cool sports sim. With its Four Score compatibility allowing up to four players to take part, Super Spike Volleyball is a great game that should appeal to most sports fans.
OVERALL 83%

STAR WARS

One of the greatest sci-fi movies EVER hits the Nintendo in a truly spectacular fashion! Star Wars features many different game styles (3D blasting, platform and scrolling blasting action) each depicting a scene from the movie. Although the price tag is very high (£50.00), Star Wars remains the best thing since Mario III.
OVERALL 95%

TEENAGE MUTANT HERO TURTLES

Although they're now tragically uncool, Turtles is a fun game that provides plenty of beat 'em up action, a hint of exploration and taxes your brains too as you rescue April O'Neil. Worth checking out.
OVERALL 86%

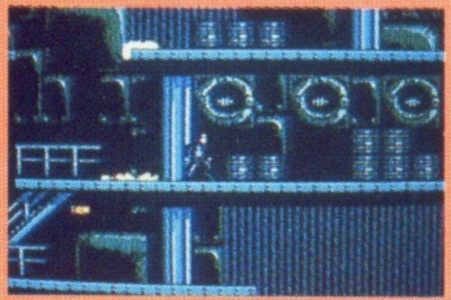
TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: THE ARCADE GAME

Take control of the bygone heroes in a half-shell in this simultaneous two-player game based on one of the most popular coin-ops ever. Turtles II is a very close conversion, but when it comes down to it, there isn't much in the game and the repetitive action soon grows stale.
OVERALL 64%

TENNIS
The graphics aren't the greatest and there's not much sound to speak of, but Nintendo Tennis is quite playable. It's the only Tennis game available on the NES anyway, so if you want to hold Wimbledon indoors next year, it's either this or nothing.
OVERALL 75%

TEN-YARD FIGHT
A conversion of the old Irem coin-op, this is one of the only arcade-style American football games available on any machine. It's simple, but fun and is worth looking at if you're new to American football and want to learn more about the sport.
OVERALL 76%

TERMINATOR II
One of the greatest movies of all time could've been an NES game to end them all. Unfortunately, what you get are five limited levels, most of which are set around a tedious platform environment. The game isn't awful - it's just dull and very unoriginal. For die-hard movie fans only.
OVERALL 72%



TETRIS
This block-based mind-teaser is the greatest puzzle game ever written. It looks naff, sounds naff... but play it and you'll be instantly hooked.
OVERALL 91%

TIGER HELI
This is a fairly straightforward up-the-screen blast in which the player pilots a heavily-armed combat chopper. The graphics are pretty samey throughout the entire game, the sound is equally bland and the gameplay is only average. Not the greatest of shoot 'em ups.
OVERALL 65%

TIME LORD
This game has a great idea and plot, but the overall execution is a tad lacking and the game itself lacks the kind of excitement we'd come to expect from an MB Games cartridge.
OVERALL 60%

TOP GUN
Though this wouldn't take anyone's breath away, the 3D combat is quite exciting, and requires a fair bit of joypad skill. The graphics aren't bad at all, and on the whole, this is a smart game. If you yearn for something flight simulator-ish on your Nintendo, check this one out.
OVERALL 79%

TOP GUN II
You ARE Maverick - the Top Gun of the title, and it's your aim to take to the skies, complete a number of missions and blow up all the MiGs you can in the process. Top Gun II is not recommended because the graphics are extremely awful and the gameplay is very dull indeed. Only the one-on-one two-player mode is a good laugh.
OVERALL 51%

TO THE EARTH
This is the most recent of the Zapper gun titles, and it's probably the best of the lot. Very nice graphics and plenty of other neat presentation features set this apart from the other light gun games, so if you've got a Zapper, check it out.
OVERALL 80%

TURBO RACING
The NES is not well catered for when it comes to road racers, so it's nice to see a good, fast action-filled effort like Turbo Racing. Although the graphics are a bit rough, this is more than made up for by the exciting gameplay. Check it out.
OVERALL 80%

TRACK AND FIELD II
Featuring a massive 15 events (hurdles, pole vault, hammer throw, archery, clay pigeon, pistol shooting, canoeing, hang-gliding, Taekwondo, fencing and arm wrestling), this is graphically and sonically superb. With multi-player action and plenty of tough and challenging button-bashing gameplay, this is a sports sim no Nintendo owner should miss.
OVERALL 90%

TROG
Trog is a PacMan-style coin-op (two girls are playing it in the arcade scene in Terminator II!) which depicts you as a caveman out to save his eggs (???) from various prehistoric terrors. The graphics are well-animated and very cute, but no amount of presentation can disguise the simplistic gameplay.
OVERALL 70%

TROJAN
This is quite a decent beat 'em up, (converted from a popular coin-op of yesteryear) but though the graphics are fine, the gameplay is a bit dull. A few more powerful weapons would have helped make this above-average quality game into something quite special.
OVERALL 72%

URBAN CHAMPION
Urban Champion is a fairly ordinary beat 'em up in which you fight a variety of foes. The graphics are rather dull, and it doesn't take long before this four-year-old game gets rather boring. If you're after a good beat 'em up, check out something like Double Dragon instead.
OVERALL 54%

WILD GUNMAN
If you've got a zapper gun, stick it into your holster and ride into town and battle a bunch of merciless hoodlums who've been whoopin' it up and scarin' all the townsfolk. The graphics are colourful and bright, and the aim is to simply blast away as many bad dude cowboys as possible. It's quite good fun, but gets a bit boring after a while.
OVERALL 67%

WIZARDS ANDWARRIORS
This is a smart-looking, but simplistic platform game which requires an awful lot of jumping skills and little else which all gets a bit monotonous after a while. There are several superior platform games available on the NES, the Mario games for example, and the Megaman series.
OVERALL 72%

WORLD WRESTLING
This has got well-animated graphics, plenty of moves and enjoyable gameplay, and while it doesn't feature the characters from WWF like the official title does, we still think it's the best wrestling game on the NES.
OVERALL 84%

WRECKING CREW
The graphics are simple, but nicely drawn and the soundtracks are superb, making this platform hammer 'em up a treat to play. It's not easy, and there are loads of screens and even a designer option if you want to try and make your own!
OVERALL 81%

WWF SUPERSTARS OF WRESTLING

Leap into the ring of the All-American World Wrestling Federation along with all your favourite wrestlers from the popular TV series. This version of WWF is good fun for a while, but it's a tad easy and only the two-player option really gives you great value for money.
OVERALL 80%

XEVIOUS
The original coin-op's best feature was its pretty graphics, and these haven't been translated too well to the comparatively chunky-pixelled NES, so all you're left with is a passable, but hardly exciting up-the-screen blast.
OVERALL 65%

ZELDA II: ADVENTUREOF LINK
This RPG-style game is absolutely vast - much bigger than the original - and it's graphically superior too. The gameplay is also beefed up with magic and beat 'em up-style swordplay, and again, the cartridge comes with a battery game-save system. This is the Nintendo's top RPG, and one of the most enjoyable on any system. Make sure you give it a try.
OVERALL 94%

688 ATTACK SUB
An excellent submarine simulation which gives you ten missions to complete as a US sub commander, and six as a Russian. Although it sounds dull, it's a very compelling game and is thoroughly recommended to someone who's after something different (with plenty of "depth" - ho! ho!).
OVERALL 88%

AEROBLASTERS
A fairly easy-to-complete one or simultaneous two-player horizontally scrolling blast. The graphics, sound and playability are all excellent, but that low challenge factor means it can only be recommended to shoot 'em up novices.
OVERALL 78%

AFTERBURNER II
All the thrills and spills of the original machine have been included as you fly your fighter through 23 missions of amazingly smooth and fast 3D action. The sound is also terrific, with a variety of thumping good rock soundtracks and great sampled speech. If you're an Afterburner fan, this is the best conversion you're ever likely to play.
OVERALL 90%

AIR DIVER
Similar to Afterburner, with more variety, but much worse graphics. The 3D is fast, but the update is jerky and the plane doesn't handle realistically. There's certainly plenty to do, but unless you're prepared to persevere with the dodgy controls, try something else.
OVERALL 69%

ALEX KIDD IN THE ENCHANTED CASTLE
The graphics and sound are almost Master System standard, and while it's fun to play, with plenty of secret rooms and things to work out, it lacks that really addictive spark that makes the 8-bit Sega Alex Kidd games so much fun to play. For ardent Alex Kidd fans only.
OVERALL 68%

ALIEN STORM
An absolutely outstanding conversion of the coin-op, with great graphics and highly enjoyable one or two-player action. The big problem is that it's just too easy. For some unknown reason, the import version is harder, but even then it's not that difficult to finish. Those new to the Megadrive scene will really enjoy the action - experts, though, are warned that they might just find themselves finishing this prematurely.
OVERALL 78%

ALISIA DRAGOON
An enjoyable and very original platform shoot 'em up with mythological overtones. The playing area is huge and there are loads of secret screens to find. Highly recommended.
OVERALL 87%

ALTERED BEAST
"Free" with Official UK Megadrives, Altered Beast is a spot-on conversion of the coin-op. The trouble is, the arcade game wasn't exactly a smash-hit - it's a very simple beat 'em up with only five levels. The gameplay is very samey, and it doesn't take long to get all the way through the game. It's okay as a freebie, though.
OVERALL 67%

ARNOLD PALMER'S GOLF
This is a pretty decent golf sim. Featuring a variety of options, excellent graphics (the 3D viewpoint and the animation on the large golfer sprite are both superb) and a very tough course indeed, Arnold Palmer's Golf will appeal to golf and sports simulation fans alike.
OVERALL 85%

ARROW FLASH
A dull and uninteresting horizontally scrolling shoot 'em up which is made even worse by a complete lack of challenge. There are tons of better Megadrive blasters, so shop around rather than waste your cash on this.
OVERALL 46%

ASSAULT SUIT LEYNOS
This strange sort of platform-cum-shoot 'em up puts you in control of a multi beweaponed space commando. While the graphics and sound are very good, the gameplay borders on frustrating - there are loads of things to shoot down and the control method is very fiddly, so unless you're prepared to stick with it, you won't get full enjoyment from the game.
OVERALL 73%

ATOMIC ROBO KID
There are four different power-ups to collect in this accurate multidirectionally scrolling coin-op conversion. The gameplay is tough enough to keep you coming back for more. Check it out if you're after a no-frills blast with the emphasis on pure destruction.
OVERALL 82%

AXIS FZ
A very unusual and original forced perspective 3D blaster in which you control a armoured robot who patrols the multidirectionally scrolling landscape in search of things to blow up. It's great fun and is highly recommended if you can find it.
OVERALL 84%

BACK TO THE FUTURE III
A four-level game based on the popular film. The graphics and sound are both excellent, and what's there is fun and enjoyable. The only trouble is that it's fairly easy, and therefore only Megadrive beginners will get full value out of it.
OVERALL 77%

BATMAN
The graphics and sound are truly tremendous and there's a range of thumping good rock tracks to accompany the platform action. The only problem is that the game is fairly easy to beat, so platform experts be warned.
OVERALL 83%

BATTLE SQUADRON
A tough, frantic and noisy one or simultaneous two-player up-the-screen blaster. Although it's pretty much devoid of original features, it's a fun game and lays down a challenge to test even the most experienced of shooting fanatics.
OVERALL 80%

BIMINI RUN
A rather naff 3D shoot 'em up in which you pilot a speedboat though enemy-infested waters. The graphics aren't much cop and the gameplay isn't any better, and after a sessions it all becomes rather tedious.
OVERALL 45%

BLOCK OUT
This sort of 3D Tetris is surely the finest Megadrive puzzle game available. Packed with tons of options (including a simultaneous two-player mode) and featuring highly addictive gameplay, this is a must for your collection.
OVERALL 91%

BONANZA BROS
Like Alien Storm, this is another superb conversion which is let down by the fact that it's just too easy. The two-player action is fun, but at the end of the day what you need is a challenge, and unless you're a games novice, this simply fails to deliver.
OVERALL 73%

BUCK ROGERS
Looks and sounds boring, but this massive RPG-style game is far from that. With loads of missions to complete and tons of variety in the gameplay, this has enough pace and action to appeal to everyone!
OVERALL 91%

BUDOKAN
Billed correctly as a "thinking man's beat 'em up", this graphically and sonically superb oriental fighting game lets you take out your aggression with four different martial arts skills - nunchuka, bo, karate and kendo. With over 25 moves per art and 12 very tough opponents, Budokan isn't a game you'll master overnight.
OVERALL 89%

BURNING FORCE
Very much in the Space Harrier mould, this 3D shoot 'em up puts you in the

seat of a high-powered jet-bike. It sounds good, but unfortunately the gameplay gets rather repetitive after a while.
OVERALL 76%

CALIFORNIA GAMES
A brilliant looking, supremely playable, multi-player game that features roller-skating, skateboarding, hackey-sack-ing, BMX-ing and surfing. A must for sports fans.
OVERALL 91%

CENTURION
An interesting-sounding but ultimately tedious and frustrating strategy-style game which unless you're completely into Roman History fails to provide entertainment worthy of its price tag.
OVERALL 52%

COLUMNS
Sega's answer to Tetris, this puzzle game is excellent. There's a huge variety of options, including arcade-style time trials, three different difficulty settings, nine different starting levels and a two-player head-to-head mode which adds to the game's lasting appeal.
OVERALL 88%

CRACKDOWN
Another one of those very good, but all-too-easy arcade conversions. The two-player aspect is fun, and the game is enjoyable to play but the lack of challenge means that only a videogame novice will get his money's worth.
OVERALL 65%

CURSE
While Curse is fun to play, it suffers from a lack of originality and levels (there are only five). Try out other shoot 'em ups like Hellfire or Gynoug.
OVERALL 70%

CYBERBALL
A decent conversion of the multi-player American football coin-op which features robots instead of humans, Cyberball sports neat graphics but has been overshadowed by John Madden's Football. It's not bad, but check out Madden's first.
OVERALL 80%

DANGEROUS SEED
Oh dear. Sad graphics, rubbish sound, complete lack of originality and no challenge make this horizontally scrolling shoot 'em up tragedy one to avoid at all costs.
OVERALL 40%

DARK CASTLE
THE worst Megadrive game yet seen, Dark Castle is a laughably dire platform travesty whose only redeeming feature is its unintentionally hilarious sampled sound. Don't even think about buying this unless you're a demented baboon.
OVERALL 23%

DARIUS II
A very stylish horizontally scrolling shoot 'em up which sports tremendous graphics and seven completely different endings, depending on which route you take through the game! Recommended to ardent blasting fans.
OVERALL 83%

DARWIN 4081
A conversion of the rather obscure vertically scrolling shoot 'em up. It's fun for a while, but there's nothing new on offer that puts it ahead of any other Megadrive up-the-screen shooter.
OVERALL 74%

DECAPATTACK
A fun-filled platform game which is basically identical to the old import game, Magical Flying Hat Turbo Adventure, except it has different sprites and backdrops. Platform fans will love it - if you're one, check it out.
OVERALL 82%

DESERT STRIKE
The thinly disguised aim of this game is to take control of an attack helicopter and do what the armed forces should have done 12 months ago and dispose of Saddam Hussein and his forces. It's one of the best shoot 'em ups ever written, packed full of original features, and is a game that no Megadrive owner should be without.
OVERALL 94%

DEVIL CRASH
A stunning-looking pinball simulation which is loaded with features. The ball movement is completely realistic, and the general game "feel" makes it the best pinball game yet seen - a must-buy for silverball fans.
OVERALL 90%

DICK TRACY
A sort of Shinobi-style game with machine guns, Dick Tracy is a challenging and addictive action game which should appeal to fans of the movie and games-players alike.
OVERALL 89%

DINOLAND
A jolly, but fairly unchallenging pinball simulation which is let down by jerky and unrealistic ball movement. If you're a pinball fan, look out for Devil Crash, which is miles better than this.
OVERALL 53%

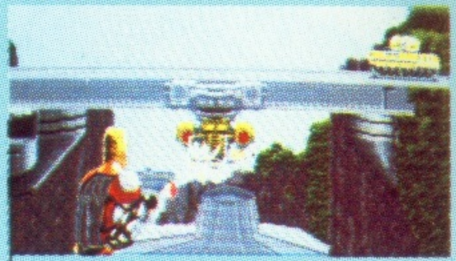
DJ BOY
DJ Boy is a beat 'em up on wheels, and while it's great fun to play, it suffers from one flaw - it's too darn easy. For coin-op fans only.
OVERALL 78%

DONALD DUCK
The action in this graphically superb platform game is fairly slow, but it's nevertheless an enjoyable game which should appeal more to beginners than seasoned veterans.
OVERALL 83%

DOUBLE DRAGON
This conversion of the beat 'em up classic is arcade perfect... except that it's too easy to beat. So unless you're a complete beat 'em up softy, this isn't really worth the money.
OVERALL 59%

DOUBLE DRAGON II
A ghastly version of the arcade beat 'em up which features inept graphics and sound and bland gameplay. Ugh!
OVERALL 30%

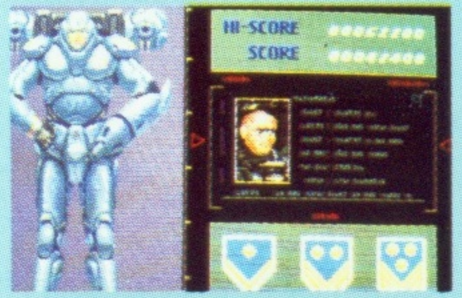
DYNAMITE DUKE
One of the few Operation Wolf-style games available for the Megadrive, this provides plenty of blasting fun and frolics, but is ultimately let down by the lack of challenge. Once again, only novices really need apply...
OVERALL 73%



EA HOCKEY
A truly superb sports simulation which perfectly captures the atmosphere of the noble (and violent) sport of ice hockey. The gameplay is simply superb and the tough computer opponents and an excellent two-player option provide plenty of lasting appeal. One of the best sports simulations available - miss it at your peril.
OVERALL 94%

ELEMENTAL MASTER
A technically superb shoot 'em up which combines excellent graphics and superb sound to make it an audio/visual treat. The gameplay is very enjoyable, but the problem is that there are five levels, and they're not that difficult to beat.
OVERALL 78%

EL VIENTO
A tough 'n' challenging platform game which doesn't look particularly hot, but is surprisingly addictive and keeps you playing for ages.
OVERALL 80%



ESWAT
ESWAT is a super-slick platform shoot 'em up that simply oozes quality. The parallax scrolling backdrops and sprites are excellent, and the sound is great. Combine those with challenging and highly addictive gameplay and you've got a game that's a must for your collection.
OVERALL 92%

F-22
This fighter combat simulation is truly superb. Packed with options and features, there are over 100 missions to test even the most elite of pilots - and a mission generator so you can create your own! An absolute must for anyone who's ever wished to fly a fighter bomber!
OVERALL 93%

FAERY TALE ADVENTURE
A dull role-playing game which lacks action and atmosphere. There are plenty of better games of this type, so look elsewhere.
OVERALL 49%

FANTASIA
This sequel to Mickey Mouse was keenly anticipated, but turned out to be a massive disappointment. The graphics are excellent, but sadly naff sound and poorly designed, bland and frustrating gameplay result in a game that has very little appeal. A Mickey Mouse game in the wrong sense of the word.
OVERALL 49%

FASTEST ONE
This split screen one or two-player racing game completely fails to deliver. Crap graphics, sound and playability and utterly tedious action result in the worst Megadrive racing game by far. Steer well clear.
OVERALL 29%

FATAL LABYRINTH
This cross between a scrolling beat 'em up and a role-playing game fails to deliver in both categories. The RPG aspect is dull and limited and the slow, boring action fails to offer any thrills and spills.
OVERALL 51%

FATAL REWIND
Better known as Killing Game Show, this is a very fast and furious platform game where memorising the screen layout is the key to success. Some may find its high difficulty level just too frustrating, but if you're after a challenge, this is where to be.
OVERALL 83%

FIGHTING MASTER
Limited with one-player, but superb in two-player mode, this beat 'em up allows the players to select one of twelve different characters and beat the cack out of each other. It's a really fun game and is highly recommended - but do bear in mind that you do need two players to get the most out of it.
OVERALL 81%

FIRE MUSTANG
This P-47 clone is quite good fun to play at first, but the trouble is that there simply isn't anything new on offer and after a few sessions it all becomes dull and predictable.
OVERALL 59%

FIRE SHARK
Also known as Tora! Tora! Tora!, this is the latest from vertically scrolling shoot 'em up specialists Toaplan (authors of Truxton and Flying Shark). Although it's great fun, suffers from being too easy to complete. Perhaps one for the novices?
OVERALL 59%

FLICKY
This conversion of the ancient coin-op looks crap, sounds crap and plays... brilliantly! It's very simplistic, but for some reason the action is incredibly enjoyable and addictive. Check it out!
OVERALL 88%

FINAL BLOW/JAMES "BUSTER" DOUGLAS CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING
On the positive side, the pair of large boxer sprites are nicely drawn and animated, but the problem is that the boxing moves are limited and there are only four different opponents. It doesn't take long to master the game, and the limited nature of the action doesn't bring you back for more.
OVERALL 69%

FLYING SHARK
Up the screen you go in this vertically scrolling blast, almost, nearly, but not quite a conversion of Taito's successful coin-op. It's an enjoyable blast, featuring decent graphics and sound, but unfortunately suffers from zero originality and low challenge, and once you've played it a couple of times you get those "seen it all before blues".
OVERALL 71%

FORGOTTEN WORLDS
Forgotten Worlds is a good looking one or two-player blast, with plenty of action on offer. Like other Megadrive games, it's easy to finish on the easy level, but offers plenty of challenge on difficult. Check it out if you're into destruction.
OVERALL 82%

GAIRIES
An excellent-looking game, Gairies is by far the toughest horizontally scrolling shoot 'em up available on the Megadrive and is highly recommended to blasting fans who are hankering after a challenge.
OVERALL 84%

GAIN GROUND
A very accurate conversion of an obscure and hopelessly crap arcade game which features the average graphics, rubbish sound and boring gameplay of the original machine.
OVERALL 43%

GALAXY FORCE
A very disappointing conversion of Sega's showpiece coin-op. The 3D effect is poor, the difficulty setting is low and there are only four levels to challenge you. If you want a game of this sort, try Space Harrier II instead.
OVERALL 59%

GAMES: WINTER CHALLENGE
Participate in eight Olympic events (speed skating, downhill, luge, cross country, bobsled, biathlon, giant slalom and ski jump) in this fine winter sports fest. The graphics are a bit patchy, but overall this is a fine game that's highly recommended to sports fans.
OVERALL 85%

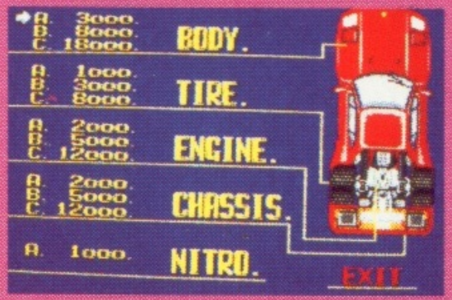
GHOSTBUSTERS
Featuring humorous cartoon-style graphics - some of the end-of-level ghosts are truly superb - and some excellent tunes, Ghostbusters is a platform game which will keep you amused for some time. If you ain't afraid of no ghosts, try this one out.
OVERALL 82%

GHOULS 'N' GHOSTS
Ghouls 'n' Ghosts is a stunning conversion on the classic coin-op, combining stunning graphics and sound with very challenging gameplay. It's a truly superb game, and is a must for your Megadrive software library.
OVERALL 93%

GOLDEN AXE
Golden Axe is a perfect replica of the arcade machine which also sports additional features in the form of one-on-one battle options, a mini-mission for

BANK PANIC
This ancient arcade conversion tests your reflexes and hand-to-eye co-ordination. The lasting appeal is limited, as the gameplay is quite simple, but this is a cheap cartridge and well worth having a look at.
OVERALL 78%

BASKETBALL NIGHTMARE
Featuring very impressive, beautifully animated in-game screens, this basketball game looks great! But when it comes to playing the game, it's all rather simplistic and dull and the end result is a mediocre basketball game with some very fancy graphics.
OVERALL 56%



BATTLE OUT RUN
Take to the highways in this Chase HQ-style car-crashing game and bump the baddies off the road before they escape! Although Battle Out Run isn't as challenging as Fire and Forget II, there's enough in there to warrant purchase - give it a go if you're into fast action.
OVERALL 80%

BLACK BELT
Take control of a kung-fu expert and battle it out across a horizontally scrolling landscape beating seven kinds of shinola out of anyone stupid enough to cross your path. It's definitely one of the better Sega beat 'em ups around, and is highly recommended.
OVERALL 81%

BLADE EAGLE 3D
One of those rare 3D glasses games, and this one isn't exactly brilliant. It's a fairly simple shoot 'em up which requires you to guide the Blade Eagle against an enemy force. If you're desperate for a 3D game, try this out - but not before taking a look at Space Harrier 3D or 3D Out Run.
OVERALL 51%

BOMBER RAID
Bomber Raid is a vertically scrolling shoot 'em up in which you fly a fighter craft deep into enemy territory with the intent of causing as much damage as possible. It's pretty good fun, but the game isn't difficult to beat, so although you tend to play it a lot at first, it doesn't take long before you finish it and become bored.
OVERALL 71%

BUBBLE BOBBLE
Acknowledged as one of the best coin-ops ever, Bubble Bobble has at last made it to the Master System. And hooray for us because it's great. All the levels are here and it's rock hard - you won't complete this one overnight that's for sure. There is some slow-down and sprite flicker however, so be warned.
OVERALL 85%

CALIFORNIA GAMES
This wacky sports sim has six events: half-pipe, foot bag, surfing, roller skating, BMX riding and frisbee-throwing. The graphics on all are pretty impressive, the animation smooth - but it's the competitive element that makes this a winner. Whenever you play it, it's totally compulsive. A must for your Sega.
OVERALL 93%

CAPTAIN SILVER
This dire hack 'n' slash game was originally a coin-op - so it'll come as no surprise that it completely bombed. The graphics are crap, the sound is woeful and the gameplay is poor.
OVERALL 47%

CASINO GAMES
Casino is a gambling game which offers three basic things to choose from: cards, slot machine and pinball. The graphics and sound are nice enough, if only functional, but the game lacks variety. There's no roulette or dice to help spice things up and you'll soon find yourself wanting more for your money.
OVERALL 46%

CHASE HQ
This race 'n' chase 'n' crash 'n' burn game is as exciting as it was in the arcades, and even if you've never played the coin-op, the high-speed thrills of this conversion make it well worth a look.
OVERALL 86%

CHOPLIFTER
With excellent graphics and challenging gameplay, Choplifter is one of the best horizontally scrolling shoot 'em ups around. Take it for a flight.
OVERALL 89%

CLOUD MASTER
Featuring simple, colourful and very weird graphics (like giant chickens and bowls of noodles), this shoot 'em up is a very straightforward and fairly enjoyable blast. Not great, but not bad either.
OVERALL 73%

COLUMNS
The colour-matching arcade puzzle action of Columns might not sound exciting, but it's one of the most addictive games available on the Sega. Play it and see for yourself!
OVERALL 90%

CYBORG HUNTER
The mission of this arcade adventure involves penetrating a well defended complex, destroying all the robots therein, and finally confronting the man behind it. It's all quite jolly and action-packed, but originality and good graphics are very thin on the ground.
OVERALL 71%

DEAD ANGLE
This Operation Wolf-style coin-op conversion takes you back to the gangster years of the 1930's and casts you as a copper on a mission to wipe out an evil gang. The graphics are great, with plenty of neat touches, and the gameplay is very addictive. Easily one of the best shooting games on the Sega, this is well worth taking a look at.
OVERALL 83%

DONALD DUCK AND THE LUCKY DIME CAPER
Another Disney star gets his own Sega game, and once more it's a platform game. Luckily, Donald follows the Disney trend all the way and his game is excellent. It's also hard enough to keep you going for a-a-ages, so prepare to spend thy dosh on this fab cart.
OVERALL 92%

DOUBLE DRAGON
A fairly good version of the classic beat 'em up which is let down by its flickery graphics and rather low difficulty level. Beat 'em up beginners should enjoy the action, but experts will complete it quickly.
OVERALL 70%

DYNAMITE DUKE
A slight twist on the Op Wolf format here sees you as Duke punching, stabbing and shooting your way across the globe facing opposition from evil all the way. Nice graphics, nice sound, shame about the game. It's fun at first, but it's quite repetitive and too easy. For coin-op fans only.
OVERALL 79%

DYNAMITE DUX
The graphics on this wild 'n' wacky duck-based beat 'em up are truly superb, with bazooka-carrying foxes, marauding moose heads and gangs of field mice all entering the fray. The gameplay is fun, but it's all a little too easy, so expert gamers won't get full value for money from it.
OVERALL 79%

ENDURO RACER
This moto-cross racing game is one of the easiest Sega cartridges to complete. Ten levels of diagonally scrolling track lie between you and the finish line, and even a novice should be able to burn all the way through to the end in a single sitting. Zzzzz.
OVERALL 32%

ESWAT
After the rather nifty arcade game, this is a disappointment. Wimpy weapons, feeble graphics and five levels of not-very-difficult action means completing this takes very little time and effort.
OVERALL 59%

F16 FIGHTER
This looks pretty impressive, but unfortunately suffers from very bland gameplay. Just fly the eponymous F16 Fighter against the swarms of enemy aircraft and blow them up to keep in the game. The graphics and sound are average, and the gameplay soon becomes dull. Avoid it.
OVERALL 48%

FANTASY ZONE
This wacky horizontally scrolling shoot 'em up has the wildest, most colourful graphics ever seen. The gameplay is very addictive indeed, and there's plenty to challenge a hardened shoot 'em up fan.
OVERALL 87%

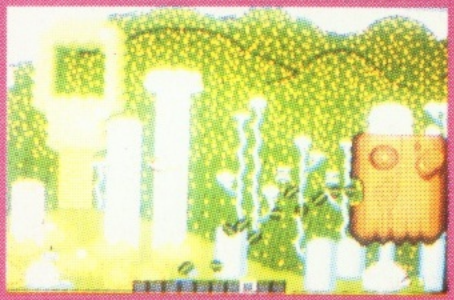
FANTASY ZONE II
A superb shoot 'em up, but suffers from being too similar to the original. If you haven't already got Fantasy Zone, buy this one instead.
OVERALL 88%

FANTASY ZONE III
Not a scrolling shoot 'em up this time, instead the third in the Fantasy Zone series takes the player to a series of mazes where he must negotiate a variety of hazards and baddies to win the day. The game is a load of fun and, although the graphics are simplistic, there's plenty there to keep anyone happy for days on end.
OVERALL 81%

FIRE AND FORGET II
Fire and Forget II's zoom-up-the-road action is very fast and pretty tough, almost to the point of being off-putting. However, once you get used to the speed of things, you start getting into the action and rise to the considerable challenge. A must for addicts of high-way violence!
OVERALL 86%

FORGOTTEN WORLDS
Become a hard floating mercenary with a flying gun in Forgotten Worlds and shoot lots of things. Yes, it's a horizontally scrolling shoot 'em up. Sadly, it's spoilt by a fiddly control method and a lack of challenge. There are much better shooters than this on the Sega.
OVERALL 62%

GAIN GROUND
This conversion of the obscure Sega coin-op shows why it was never a hit. It's a kind of flick-screen Gauntlet clone, without the playability. There's no original ideas and it all gets very repetitive. Don't buy it unless you like average games.
OVERALL 62%



GALAXY FORCE II
Featuring four levels of 3D shooting action, truly marvellous graphics and gameplay that's challenging enough to keep you occupied for weeks, this is the best game of its type on the Sega.
OVERALL 85%

GANGSTER TOWN
This old, rather dull game features reasonable graphics and sound, but doesn't really have that addictive spark to keep you coming back for more. Try something else instead.
OVERALL 48%

GAUNTLET
The coin-op was a sensation when appeared in 1986, and this version has all the features of the original machine. With 100 different levels to challenge you, Gauntlet won't lose its appeal in a hurry. If you've got a Sega, do yourself a favour and plug this into it.
OVERALL 90%

GHOSTBUSTERS
On the whole Ghostbusters is a great game. The graphics are nicely detailed, smooth and colourful - the music, though, is utterly dire, and sounds like a load of deaf people are trying to play the Ghostbusters theme tune on some crummy old synthesizers. Still, turn down the volume and get bustin'...
OVERALL 86%

GHOST HOUSE
Ghost House's graphics are of the cute style - big heads, big eyes and little bodies - the sound is very jolly, and at its cheap price the addictive gameplay provides fun at a price every Sega owner can afford.
OVERALL 79%

GLOBAL DEFENCE
Known better to arcade goers as SDI, this missile-blasting game has excellent graphics. The gameplay is addictive too - in fact the only thing wrong with it is the tricky control method, which makes it frustratingly difficult to get into. If you're prepared to stick with it, there's plenty here. Try before you buy.
OVERALL 80%

G-LOC
This is what Afterburner should have been. Loads of missions, tons of power-ups and enough variety to stop you getting bored. Shooting fans should be especially interested in this.
OVERALL 82%

GOLDEN AXE
Golden Axe is a superb conversion of the coin-op, with five tough levels of action. The graphics and sound are both top-notch and the game is highly recommended to beat 'em up fans.
OVERALL 92%

GOLFAMANIA
Golfamania lets you play a round of 18 hazard-packed holes in the comfort of your very own front room. There's plenty of lasting appeal in this one, and the challenging gameplay keeps you coming back time and time again. A must for Sega-owning golf fans - get your Dad to buy it, he'll love it!
OVERALL 83%

GOLVELLIUS
RPG fans will be interested in this one. The graphics are top-notch and the sound is atmospheric and helps draw you into the action. Arcade fans won't like this much, but if you're after a sedate game which require plenty of the old grey matter, check this one out.
OVERALL 81%

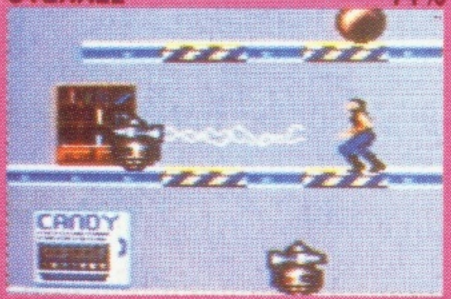
GREAT BASEBALL
Great Baseball isn't as good as American Baseball, so we recommend baseball fans to try that first before buying.
OVERALL 70%

GREAT BASKETBALL
If you like basketball, rush out and grab this now. Otherwise try something with a bit more oomph - like California Games or American Pro Football.
OVERALL 68%

GREAT FOOTBALL
Not soccer, as you might imagine - this is a simulation of American Football. If you're after a good American Football simulation, try out American Pro Football - it's miles better than this and offers twice as much challenge.
OVERALL 67%

GREAT GOLF
If you fancy a round of 18-hole golf, this might be what you're looking for. Or is it? If you look around the shelves of your software shop, you'll find Golfamania and Leaderboard, both which have better graphics, sound and playability.
OVERALL 71%

GREAT VOLLEYBALL
This simulation is pretty accurate, and it has good graphics and an easy-to-use control method, but really it's the sport itself that provides the problems. It's simply not very action-packed, and as a result gets dull fairly quickly.
OVERALL 71%



IMPOSSIBLE MISSION
Impossible Mission sounds great, featuring highly atmospheric effects. It looks stunning. But more importantly it plays absolutely brilliantly. A fantastic game which is destined to become one of THE classic Sega titles.
OVERALL 97%

INDIANA JONES AND THE LAST CRUSADE
Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade is almost as hard as the hero himself! The graphics and sound are both good, and with five very challenging levels to battle through, this should appeal to those who like their games very tough.
OVERALL 86%

JUNGLE FIGHTER
Jungle Fighter is an enjoyable and straightforward horizontally scrolling hack 'n' slash game. There are a few niggling points, though. The landscapes are large, but the gameplay is a little bit tedious, since Danan can only do a few moves, and although the baddies are numerous, they're not particularly tough. Rastan fans might like it, but don't expect it to challenge you for long.
OVERALL 71%

JOE MONTANA'S FOOTBALL
The first John Madden's clone makes it over to the Master System, boasting plenty of action, loads of teams and billions of strategies. Unfortunately, it just doesn't work. The graphics are dull, responsiveness is poor and the slightly ropey collision detection spoils things further. Not too hot.
OVERALL 65%

KENSEIDEN
Action is thin on the ground, but what do you expect from a role-playing game? Some of the still screens are truly superb, and there's plenty of brain-bending puzzles in the game to keep a role-playing fan happy for weeks on end!
OVERALL 85%

KLAX
This superb puzzle game was all the rage in California a while ago. Finally it has wended its weary way to the Master System. So is it any good? Well, yes it is. If brainy-type japes are your bag, check this out.
OVERALL 88%

KUNG-FU KID
Graphically similar in style to Ghost House, this platform game with kung-fu overtones is all jolly fun, but if you're after something with better graphics and more challenge, take a look at Black Belt before parting with your dosh.
OVERALL 70%

LASER GHOST
A not-quite-conversion of Sega's fun-some coin-op. Protect a possessed girlie by shooting all the regional ghosts, either with light phaser or cursor. Fiddly controls wreck things a bit, but it's still quite a jape with nice graphics and plenty of action. Light phaser owners should grab this.
OVERALL 76%

LINE OF FIRE
Another pseudo conversion from those Sega lads. This time the Op Wolf-style gameplay has been replaced by vertically scrolling shoot 'em up action. Trouble is, it's slow, dull and offers few thrills.
OVERALL 46%

LORD OF THE SWORD
Two game styles meet head-on in this role-playing game with arcade sequences. It's a nice idea in principle which doesn't quite make it due to the rather bland action, and the fact that the role-playing bits are quite weak - there's simply not enough of each game style to satisfy fans of either genre.
OVERALL 74%

MAZE HUNTER 3D
Don your cool 3D shades and enter the maze in this entertaining game of mazes and more mazes. The 3D effect is pretty good, and the game is fun to play, but not Earth-shatteringly brilliant. Not an essential purchase by any means, but if you're after something to go with your 3D glasses, this is worth checking out.
OVERALL 74%

MERCS
That last bastion of death, the coin-op Mercs makes its appearance on the Master System. It's violent, it's got good graphics, it's highly playable and it's also very easy. If you think you'll keep coming back to this game even when you've completed it (which should only take two goes at most), check it out.
OVERALL 81%

MICKEY MOUSE IN THE CASTLE OF ILLUSION
The epony-mouse (ha ha) does his stuff in this skill platform game. Great graphics and sound, loads of bonuses, great gameplay and a bit of a challenge make this a cart to get.
OVERALL 93%

MOONWALKER
Aaoow! Strut your thang in Moonwalker, a platform shoot 'em up starring none other than Michael Jackson himself. The graphics are smart, and it's pretty playable, but be warned, it does get pretty repetitive. Jacko fans and die-hard platformers will love this, though.
OVERALL 80%

MS PACMAN
Gobble dots! Dodge ghosts! Lapse into a coma! Ms Pacman is just regular Pacman with knobs on, even the competitive two player mode wanes after a while, so don't buy this cart. If you're desperate for a Pac title, get Pacmania instead.
OVERALL 31%

MIRACLE WARRIOR
Miracle Warrior is an enjoyable game, and is recommended to arcade fans who enjoy a bit of adventure-style puzzling.
OVERALL 81%

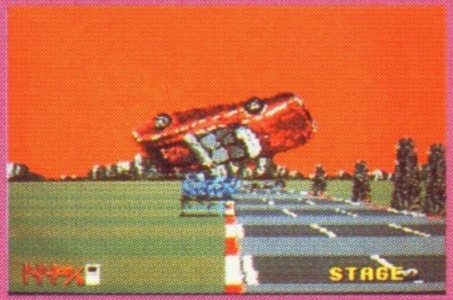
MISSILE DEFENCE 3D
Missile Defence 3D is by no means an essential purchase, but if you're after something to use with your 3D glasses, this is worth having a look at.
OVERALL 76%

MONOPOLY
Unless you're desperate to play Monopoly and never have a friend to play with, you might as well buy the actual board game - it's cheaper, and is a lot more fun than this (after all, you can't argue with the computer!)
OVERALL 69%

MY HERO
This rather odd-looking, cute beat 'em up (strange combination, eh?) requires you to rescue your girlfriend who's been kidnapped by local hoodlums. The game is good fun, but Black Belt is a better example - try that before buying this.
OVERALL 74%

NINJA
Although the graphics are rather simplistic, the shuriken-lobbing action is challenging and addictive. The difficulty level is nicely pitched so you seem to get a little further into the game each time, and there are ten levels to beat. If you're after a combat game with a difference, this is worth taking a look at.
OVERALL 80%

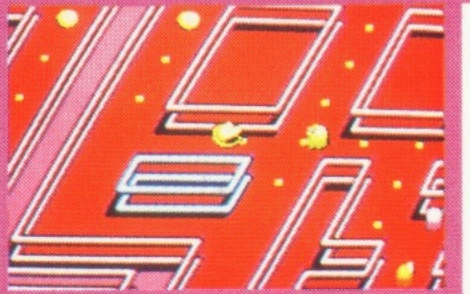
OPERATION WOLF
Take the role of a super-tough commando and blast your way across six horizontally scrolling enemy landscapes using your crosshair sights to aim your gun. Combining good graphics and solid, challenging action, this is an arcade conversion that should be checked out by all Sega shoot 'em up addicts.
OVERALL 88%



OUT RUN
Although the 3D update isn't particularly smooth, the graphics are colourful and the gameplay is as addictive as the original coin-op. There are a variety of different ways of finishing the game, and it'll take quite a while to do them all. If you're a race fan, take this one for a spin.
OVERALL 80%

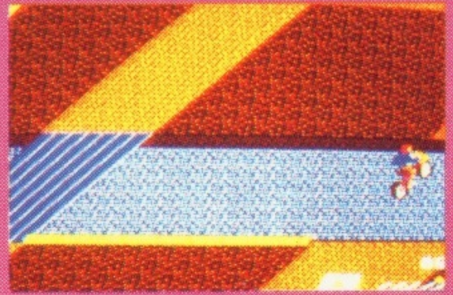
OUT RUN 3D
Looks and plays almost identically to the non-3D version, but has the added bonus of effective 3D. Out Run 3D is about the best 3D glasses game around, and should therefore be put at the top of your shopping list (as long as you've actually got a pair of 3D glasses!).
OVERALL 81%

OUTRUN EUROPA
OutRun Europa puts you in control of many different vehicles, from motorcycles to jetskis, in an attempt to thwart an evil terrorist organisation. Sadly, this "variety" doesn't save the game from being a frustrating, bland and desperately mediocre game. With crap graphics.
OVERALL 63%



PACMANIA
Isometric view dot munching is the order of the day in Pacmania. The graphics are great, there's lots of levels, it's playable, addictive and packs something of a challenge. Make this cart your own and never look back.
OVERALL 90%

PARLOUR GAMES
Combining a variety of "parlour" type board games, this sounds like fun, but in reality it's all rather dull. The games included in the package aren't really ones you'd play if you had them - they're all rather too simple. Maybe this is one for the younger Sega games-players?
OVERALL 47%



PAPERBOY
Paperboy is a conversion of the popular arcade game of a few years back, and casts you as a newspaper delivery boy who's round takes him to the weird side of town. With its fantastic graphics and faithful arcade tunes, Paperboy should find a place in any arcade fan's cartridge collection.
OVERALL 89%

PENGUIN LAND
This is a decent little action/puzzle sort of game, made more jolly by the cute and colourful graphics. Unfortunately, the gameplay isn't powerfully addictive stuff, so it's probably most appealing to younger Sega players.
OVERALL 68%

PHANTASY STAR
A sprawling RPG which offers a great depth of gameplay, decent graphics and a good challenge. There are slightly better games of this sort (and cheaper too - this cart costs £40!), but if you're an RPG fan who has them all, this is well worth getting.
OVERALL 75%

POSEIDON WARS 3D
As the name suggests, this is a 3D electro-specs game, which puts you in the middle of a naval war. The action is quite basic shoot 'em up stuff, so all in all, this isn't a particularly stunning game, even with the added dimension.
OVERALL 55%

POWER STRIKE
The fast and frenetic action of this vertically scrolling blaster is what really sets it apart from other Sega games - only when the screen is jam-packed with sprites does the game slow down to any noticeable extent. At the moment, Power Strike remains the best Sega vertical scroller around.
OVERALL 90%

PRO WRESTLING
This version of the old grappling game features some very nice presentation screens, but crap in-game graphics. The sound is pretty awful, but it's the very awkward control mode that really seals this game's doom. Avoid, unless you're a real diehard grappling fanatic.
OVERALL 46%

PSYCHO FOX
Featuring plenty of extra rounds and hidden bonuses, Psycho Fox ranks as probably the greatest all-out arcade platform game seen on the Sega Master System. Need we say more?
OVERALL 90%

QUARTET
Featuring bland graphics and sound, this conversion of Sega's uninspiring coin-op is really let down by its complete lack of variety between levels. If you've seen one, you've seen 'em all...
OVERALL 64%

RC GRAND PRIX
RC Grand Prix is a very fast and playable game. It has plenty of tracks too, but it doesn't take very long to complete them all, and after that it all becomes a bit dull.
OVERALL 70%

R-TYPE
R-Type is fab, with all the levels of the arcade and a number of secret bonuses. However, although it's got a great line in playability, the sprites sometimes tend to suffer from chronic flicker - especially when a lot is happening on-screen. Still, shoot 'em up fans should seek this out immediately!
OVERALL 91%

RAMBO III
Great graphics and gameplay make this one of the best Light Phaser games out. If you're a Light Phaser owner who is desperately seeking a brill Op Wolf game, go for Rambo III, but if you're Phaser-less, go for the real McCoy.
OVERALL 89%

RAMPAGE
Rampage was a great laugh in the arcades - mainly because it was so fun to be the bad guys for a change! All the fun of being a monster and trashing a city is here to be savoured, with great graphics to boot. Highly recommended.
OVERALL 85%

RASTAN
The Sega version of Rastan isn't a bad slash 'em up, and remains quite faithful to the arcade, but unfortunately, the graphics are a bit fuzzy. The gameplay is quite challenging though and should keep avid sword slingers quite involved for a long time.
OVERALL 79%

RESCUE MISSION
Rescue Mission comes highly recommended, combining graphical excellence with infuriatingly addictive gameplay. The action is slick and fast and should keep you blasting away with your light gun for ages. Go get it - you'll love it!
OVERALL 82%

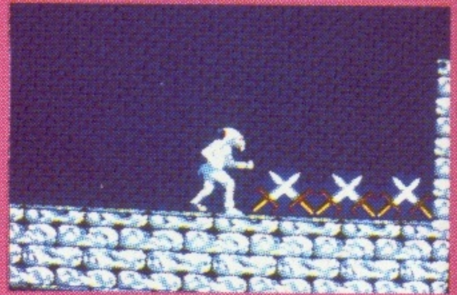
ROCKY
The graphics in this boxing game are quite spectacular for a Sega, but where the game falls down is in the lastability stakes because there are only three opponents. If there was more game for your money this could have been a contender. As it is, Rocky just doesn't last the full 15 rounds.
OVERALL 62%

RUNNING BATTLE
Platform action is once again the order of the day in Running Battle, which stars you as a super-hard military saboteur. Grab gun icons for a short spell of blasting, or a Power icon for super-speed running capabilities. The trouble is that the poor graphics, slow response time, shoddy collision detection, repetitive gameplay and limited nature of the game spoils the proceedings somewhat.
OVERALL 54%

SCRAMBLE SPIRITS
This is a one or two-player conversion of an extremely obscure coin-op which was one of Sega's few arcade failures. The exceedingly bland gameplay is marred even further by blurred, flickering sprites and the "power-ups" are fairly pitiful, too. Unless you're really desperate for a vertically-scrolling shoot 'em up, this isn't worthy of consideration.
OVERALL 49%

SEGA CHESS
If you're lonely and desperate for a quick... game of chess, Sega Chess is here to help you. It plays a pretty good game (on the higher difficulty settings) but it's quite slow, not very responsive and the hanging around does get on your nerves.
OVERALL 77%

SHADOW DANCER
There's ninja japes aplenty in Shadow Dancer - a conversion of the Sega coin-op (but missing the dog). Still, the lack of any canine presence doesn't spoil the game too much, although the stupidly unbalanced difficulty setting is a bit of a downer (the levels are easy and the guardians are ultra-rock-blinking-hard). Not so bad, nevertheless.
OVERALL 71%

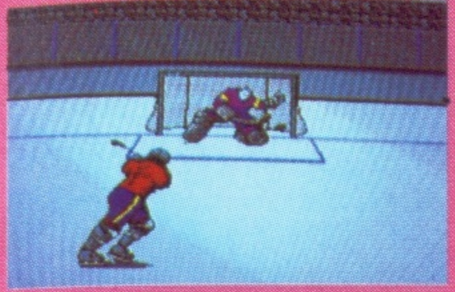


SHADOW OF THE BEAST
Grrr! Platform game Shadow of the Beast casts you as a mean and ugly monster who must avenge the death of his family by killing the evil Beast Lord. Decent graphics, and it's pretty enjoyable, but a number of small niggles stop it from being a classic.
OVERALL 80%

SHANGHAI
A sort of oriental patience with tiles, Shanghai is one of those games that doesn't look very impressive, but keeps you coming back regularly game after game. It's really therapeutic, and is a great way to relax your brain after a hard day's work.
OVERALL 88%

SHINOBI
Sega Shinobi is a great conversion of a decent coin-op, with literally hours of beat 'em up action jammed in. It has great graphics and jam-hot playability, and since there's hardly any decent Sega beat 'em ups available, there's no excuse not to add this one to your collection.
OVERALL 87%

SHOOTING GALLERY
This is the cartridge you used to get free with the Sega Light Phaser, and features three different shooting games. Zap targets in a police-style firing range before they spin around and disappear, down clay pigeons and zap small animals in a jungle scenario. Worth a go.
OVERALL 70%



SLAP SHOT
Both one and two-player options are available in this, and generally speaking, Slap Shot plays a very playable game of ice hockey. The graphics may not be totally awe-inspiring, and the sound's even worse, but in two-player mode the game is a great laugh. Check it out.
OVERALL 82%

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG
Take control of the legendary blue hedgehog as he runs around scrolling platforms dusting the minions of Dr Robotnik. Sonic the Hedgehog is a state of the art 8-bit game, combining incredibly swift scrolling with gob-smacking graphics and interesting gameplay. A must-have.
OVERALL 90%

SPACE HARRIER
The basic gameplay is exactly the same as the highly successful 3D coin-op of several years ago, but there are new aliens to blast into oblivion. If you're a fan of Space Harrier, this will obviously have great appeal, but for everyone else, the novelty will wear off very quickly.
OVERALL 77%

SPACE HARRIER 3D
Space Harrier 3D is almost identical to the above version, but works with 3D glasses. It's one of the better 3D games around, and should be tried out.
OVERALL 78%

SPEEDBALL
This is a pretty good conversion of the Amiga title, especially with the tweaked one-player difficulty setting. However, right now it's overshadowed by its successor - Speedball II
OVERALL 79%

SPEEDBALL II
An updated and improved version of Speedball. Better graphics, better playability and much more depth make Speedball II one of the top Master System sports sims. Give it a go if you're into goals 'n' violence.
OVERALL 89%

SPELLCASTER
This RPG is pretty good, with its action and basic decision-making being very easy to get into. It's especially suited to borderline players who've had enough of shoot 'em ups and want something a little more mentally taxing without actually going all the way to the real RPG stuff of Ultima and Y'S.
OVERALL 84%

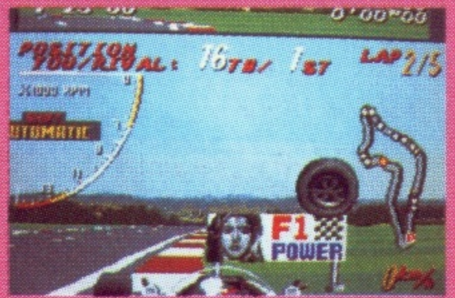
SPIDER-MAN
Yes, it's yet another platform game, but this one's different. Spidey can do pretty much anything he is capable of in the comics, like web slinging, spinning shields and throwing web-balls. Spider-Man is very playable, has great graphics and sound and will take a lot of work to complete. Highly recommended.
OVERALL 87%

SPY VS SPY
Spy vs Spy ranks as a classic two-player game which won't set the world alight with either its visuals or sonics, but scores extremely highly in the playability department! Our advice is to check out this top-notch offering - pronto.
OVERALL 88%

STRIDER
The Megadrive version of this game was almost arcade perfect. Sadly, this is not. The graphics are OK, but it's very slow and difficult to control. The suspect collision detection and poor responsiveness seal the coffin of this disappointing release.
OVERALL 67%

SUMMER GAMES
Featuring five events (the 100m dash, the pole vault, gymnastics, 100m freestyle swimming and high dive), Summer Games is a big disappointment. All the events feature rubbish graphics and completing them all is as easy as 123. Avoid - even if you love sports games.
OVERALL 37%

SUPER KICK OFF
The legendary Super Kick Off looks surprisingly similar to its Amiga counterpart, and plays just as brilliantly! A superb game - one of the finest available on this machine - and a must for all football fans (and anyone else for that matter).
OVERALL 96%



SUPER MONACO GP
Although this shares its name with Sega's super 3D road racer coin-op, this isn't a conversion, strictly speaking. But that's not saying it's bad. The 3D is fast and effective 3D and it plays well too, even in a single-player mode in which you race against a field of ruthless computer-driven cars. If you're after some hard-driving thrills, forget the rest - this is the best!
OVERALL 92%

SUPER SPACE INVADERS
The idea behind Super Space Invaders was to take the original coin-op and blend it with some of the modern trappings of shoot 'em ups - power ups and scrolling for example. It works too, and the resulting game is a highly enjoyable blast.
OVERALL 82%

SUPER TENNIS
This being quite an oldie, the action is a tad basic, with no graphical frills or fancy gameplay touches to liven things up. Though it's reasonably playable, it's

certainly no match for the more recent Wimbledon Tennis.
OVERALL 69%

TEDDY BOY
This was never the most outstanding Sega release, but now it's doing the rounds with a price tag of a tenner, it's not such a bad buy. The graphics are cute, and the gameplay, while not fiendishly exciting, is decent enough fun for a fair few hours. A nice little potboiler.
OVERALL 69%

TENNIS ACE
Beaten (just) by Wimbledon Tennis, this is still one of the better Sega sport sims which should keep any tennis fan happy when the municipal court is under six feet of water.
OVERALL 80%

THUNDERBLADE
Thunderblade must have been a pretty tricky coin-op to convert, but the programmers have managed to capture it successfully with this conversion. The graphics are good, the gameplay is challenging and it provides plenty of entertainment for any shoot 'em up fan.
OVERALL 80%

TIME SOLDIERS
The graphics on this obscure coin-op conversion are dinky, but nicely defined, and the Commando-style action is fun - even more so with two players. Shoot 'em up fans should certainly get their fair share of jollies out of this.
OVERALL 73%

TRANSBOT
This early Sega shooter is a bit basic compared to more recent titles such as R-Type, but at least there are extra weapons to keep a bit of variety. The other plus is that now it sells in Sega's ten quid range, so it's well worth rooting out if you're low on moolah.
OVERALL 75%

ULTIMA IV
Though this enormous RPG scores quite low on the graphics-ometer, it has weeks, nay, months of gameplay packed into its chips, and a battery-backed save too! If role-playing is your idea of heaven, get hold of Ultima IV fast!
OVERALL 89%

VIGILANTE
This conversion of the beat 'em up coin-op manages to retain most of the coin-op's graphics and sound, even if the sprites are a bit on the flickery side, and the spot FX a little ropey. The playability remains the same, however, which is the most important thing, so if you're after a not-too-taxing beat 'em up, have a look.
OVERALL 72%

WANTED
If you're keen on shooting gallery style games, this is worth taking a look at. It's by no means a brilliant game, but if you're after a something to use with your light gun you could do a lot worse than this.
OVERALL 70%

WIMBLEDON TENNIS
This is the best Sega tennis game by a minuscule margin. It's fast, there are lots of modes of play and the championship tournament takes a lot of practice to win. The two-player mode is even more fun. Well worth considering if you have a second player lying around.
OVERALL 80%

WONDERBOY
Although this is starting to show its age a little, and is a little on the repetitive side, Wonderboy is still a bundle of fun, with cutesy graphics and a jolly soundtrack to add to the appeal.
OVERALL 80%

WONDERBOY IN MONSTERLAND
Better than the first installment by a long shot, Wonderboy II is a game that'll have you clamped to your pad for absolutely ages, but isn't a game that you'll complete in a hurry. Highly recommended.
OVERALL 87%

WONDERBOY III
Wonderboy III has to rank as one of the greatest Master System games ever! It has a look and feel slightly reminiscent of the Nintendo Mario series (no bad thing) and a depth of gameplay second to none. Make sure it's in your collection - NOW!
OVERALL 96%

WORLD CLASS LEADERBOARD
It's a golf game. What more can we say? Well, it's got extensive tournament play, realistic action, loads of courses and it's very challenging. If you're a golf fan or you're after a good game with which to unwind, World Class Leaderboard is the cart for you.
OVERALL 92%

WORLD CUP ITALIA 90
This is a rubbish soccer game. The controls are poor, the graphics are naff and the sound is awful. Buy Super Kick Off instead, or if you want a side-on viewed soccer game, check out World Cup Soccer.
OVERALL 48%

WORLD CUP SOCCER
Highly entertaining side-viewed soccer game which was by far the best console football game until Super Kick Off came along. It's now available on Sega's budget range for only £14.99 and at that price is an absolute bargain. Check it out!
OVERALL 85%

WORLD GAMES
Featuring log-rolling, bull riding, barrel jumping and caber tossing, this is a complete disappointment. Although graphically pleasing, what's there soon becomes very samey and terminal boredom swiftly sets in. Your best bet is to leave this one well alone.
OVERALL 50%

WORLD GRAND PRIX
A very decent race game which is graphically impressive and features challenging and enjoyable racing action. It's not as good as Super Monaco GP, but is sufficiently different enough

to be worth looking at if you've already got that.
OVERALL 81%

XENON 2
It's another Amiga conversion - this time of the great Bitmap Bros vertically scrolling shoot 'em up. The graphics are great, if the scrolling is a little jerky. Still, it's the gameplay that counts, and Xenon 2 scores highly here. If only it had a few more levels, it would have been a classic.
OVERALL 84%

Y'S
This really is a huge RPG, but luckily, there is a battery game save option to make things easier. The graphics are slightly better than Ultima's character sprites, making this look a bit like Nintendo's first Zelda game. The emphasis is heavily on the role-playing though, so it doesn't really have the same universal appeal.
OVERALL 88%

ZAXXON 3D
A bastardised version of the coin-op which requires 3D glasses, this is a really naff game which suffers from extremely boring gameplay. Give it a miss.
OVERALL 32%

ZILLION
A big, tough, but ultimately tedious platform game. Worth a look if you're a complete and utter platform game nut, but most players will find it all a bit too much.
OVERALL 71%

ZILLION II
Similar to Zillion, but with loads of add-on weapons, an added jet-bike sequence and some nifty beat 'em up action. If you like Zillion, go for it. If you didn't, steer clear.
OVERALL 74%

AX BATTLER
Join Ax Battler in this scrolling RPG romp (very) loosely based on the Golden Axe coin-op. Watch out though! The beat 'em up element is extremely poor and the adventure itself is dull and uninspiring. Playing Ax Battler is a lot like jumping off a cliff - one go is more than enough, and isn't really recommended at all.
OVERALL 39%

COLUMNS
This is a very good Tetris clone. Instead of making horizontal lines, your job here is to create rows of colours with the aid of the falling blocks of crystals. Fast, addictive and very taxing, but yet and at the same time very relaxing. A great buy.
OVERALL 88%

CHASE HQ
Join Raymond and Tony as they speed around in their Porsche ramming criminal cars off the road in this conversion of the popular Taito coin-op. This is a lot faster and playable than the Master System version and is well worth checking out.
OVERALL 87%

DONALD DUCK: THE LUCKY DIME CAPER
Argghhh! Scrooge McDuck's lucky dime has been half-inched by an evil witch! Pausing only to collect his trusty mallet, Donald Duck gives chase along various horizontally scrolling levels. What we have here is a super platform game that's even more lastable than Sonic the Hedgehog. An essential Game Gear buy!
OVERALL 92%

DRAGON CRYSTAL
Save the world from certain doom in this RPGish adventure exploration game. Although offering nothing significantly new, Dragon Crystal has decent enough graphics, sound and gameplay and should appeal to fans of the genre.
OVERALL 70%

FACTORY PANIC
Known as Hassle Golby in Japan, this game actually casts you as Mikhail Gorbachev, out to feed the starving Soviets by guiding food on conveyor belts towards them. This game is actually quite a laugh, with pretty good graphics and sound. The simplistic nature of the gameplay makes it an addictive and worthwhile game.
OVERALL 82%

FANTASY ZONE
Flying around the bizarre scrolling backdrops shooting the excrement out of everything that moves is the name of the game here. Fantasy Zone is probably one of the best blasters out on the Game Gear at the moment and well worth considering.
OVERALL 84%

GALAGA '91
This is a superlative version of the back-to-basics shoot 'em up, featuring excellent graphics, rumbling sounds and highly addictive blasting gameplay. Recommended for the Game Gear owner who likes a good blaster in his cartridge collection.
OVERALL 85%

G-LOC
Fly around the 3D landscape taking out enemy 'planes and installations in this hand-held conversion of the graphically stunning Sega coin-op. The graphics on G-Loc are okay, but the gameplay is fast and furious and there are plenty of levels to conquer.
OVERALL 82%

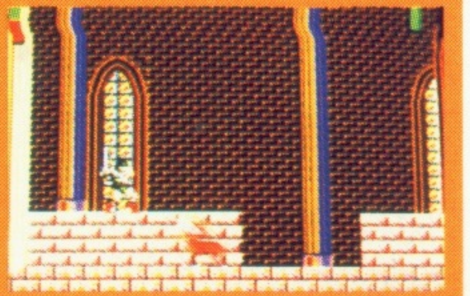
HALLEY WARS
Halley Wars puts you right in the thick of it as a space ace pilot, who gets his kicks by flying up the screen in his ship, shooting lots of things. The graphics and sound are both average and the blasting action, although initially appealing, soon wears off.
OVERALL 69%

HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMP
This arcade conversion looks more like Final Blow, than Heavyweight Champ, but that doesn't alter the fact that this game is something of a shambles. The graphics are okay, but the gameplay is so easy and mind-numbingly unexciting that you can't help but think that there are better things to spend £25.00 on.
OVERALL 46%

INDIANA JONES III
Join Indiana Jones as he runs around five levels of platform action, causing aggravation to Nazis in an attempt to locate the holy grail. Graphically, this shows you exactly what the Game Gear is capable of. It's just a shame that it's so hard as this does tend to put you off a bit, but otherwise, this is a pretty fine game.
OVERALL 83%

JOE MONTANA FOOTBALL
Joe Montana has officially endorsed this sideways scrolling American Football game. The graphics are excellent, but the game suffers because there's a lack of depth and excitement. It's also flippin' easy, and even the most retarded games player should have no difficulty dusting this game.
OVERALL 65%

MICKEY MOUSE
Oh no! A crazed witch by the name of Mizrabel has kidnapped Minnie Mouse, Mickey's true love! So Mickey attempts the inevitable rescue bid by travelling through the many scrolling platform levels in the Castle of Illusion. This is excellent, with fab backdrops and awesome gameplay. Another Game Gear winner.



OVERALL 91%

NINJA GAIDEN
Become Ryu the master ninja as he scoots along the horizontally scrolling backdrops, dusting various beings of an evil disposition. This very fast, extremely furious and is only marred by being a tad on the easy side.
OVERALL 86%

OUTRUN
Take the wheel of a Ferrari Testarossa and speed along the 3D roads in an effort to reach the finishing post in the gruelling Outrun race. This has disappointing graphics and warbling sounds, but the real problem is that the game just isn't really that much fun to play.
OVERALL 64%

PACMAN
There's not really much to tell about this one. PacMan is an arcade-perfect conversion of the classic coin-op. If PacMan is your bag, you'll no doubt pee your pants over this one. Others are more likely to have a few goes and then get bored with it pretty quickly.
OVERALL 49%

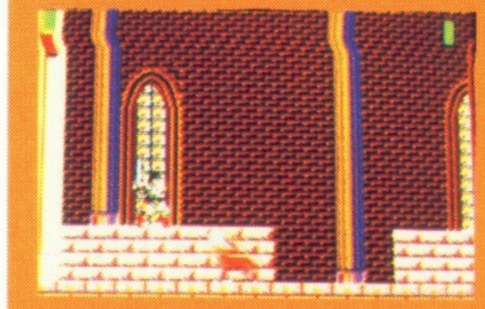
PENGO
Adopt the heroic mantle of a vengeance-crazed penguin out to crush marauding invaders with big blocks of ice in this decent conversion of the ageing coin-op. Like PacMan, this is simple and quite addictive, but the novelty soon wears off very quickly.
OVERALL 48%

PSYCHIC WORLD
Psychic World is a side-on scrolling game full to the brim with strange and mysterious beings, out to dust your baboon-like posterior. Psychic World is average in every respect, but the chances are that you'll grow bored with it very quickly.
OVERALL 55%

PUTT 'N' PUTTER GOLF
This is quite similar to the Megadrive game, Zany Golf, with its isometric 3D perspective, and it's pretty good fun to play. The problem is that the game is about as easy as picking your nose, and even though there are loads of levels, the game soon grows quite stale.
OVERALL 59%

RASTAN
Run around the scrolling medieval backdrops, slashing up enemies with your impressive chopper. The graphics and sound are both okay, but the gameplay

is quite repetitive and becomes pretty boring after a surprisingly short time.
OVERALL 58%



SHINOBI
Five levels' worth of scrolling slash 'em up activity await in this Game Gear adaptation of the Sega coin-op. This game has exceptional graphics and sound along with gameplay that brings you back to the Game Gear again and again.
OVERALL 91%

SOLITAIRE POKER
You can't honestly expect superlative graphics or sound here, but what you do get is a no-gimmicks game of poker, which is fine if you like that sort of thing. However, we can't help but think that getting together with some chums and spending a few pence on a deck of cards is a lot cheaper and plenty more fun than playing this.
OVERALL 70%

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG
Sega's blue, spiky hedgehog icon hits the Game Gear in a fast moving platform game with superlative graphics. This is an excellent Game Gear title, stretching its 8-bit technology to the limits. It's fun and addictive too (if a tad easy) and is well worth investing in.
OVERALL 91%

SPIDER-MAN
The Amazing Spider-Man hits the Game Gear in style as he battles the Kingpin, Venom, the Lizard, Doctor Octopus, Electro, Sandman and Hobgoblin over a number of eight-way scrolling stages. This is great fun to play and very challenging to boot. It's a must-buy for all potential web-slingers and indeed anyone after a good platform game.
OVERALL 86%

SPACE HARRIER
Fly around the third person perspective world of the Fantasy Zone, blowing away all manner of strange and weird enemies. This emulates the gameplay of the coin-op pretty well, but the graphics are blocky and uninspiring and the simplistic gameplay grows tedious very quickly.
OVERALL 63%

SUPER KICK OFF
This Game Gear conversion of the best soccer game ever is a real winner, with fast, responsive action and exciting ball-handling. With one or two-players, this is nothing short of a hand-held miracle and ranks as the best Game Gear cart money can buy.
OVERALL 96%

SUPER MONACO GP
One or two players can try to satisfy that need for speed by taking part in Super Monaco GP. This conversion isn't very faithful at all to the massive Sega coin-op, but it is mildly diverting for a while. Unfortunately, the action wears thin very quickly and the graphics and sound are rubbish.
OVERALL 58%

WAGAN LAND
This horizontally scrolling platform game is probably the nearest you can get to Mario-style action on a mini screen. It's got excellent graphics and playability, although some players may find it a bit easy.
OVERALL 85%

WONDERBOY
This coin-op conversion remains pretty close to the original arcade machine, with the same brand of cute horizontally scrolling action. The problem with this game is that there isn't much variety between each level in terms of graphical style or gameplay and as such, it grows quite monotonous very quickly.
OVERALL 61%

WOODY POP
Don't be misled by the bizarre title. Woody Pop is a thinly-disguised version of Breakout with all the thrills, spills and indeed the excitement of visiting the toilet. Should Breakout games appeal to you, you'll doubtlessly explode with pleasure on playing this game. Others will see it as the superficial, limp shambles that it is.
OVERALL 33%

WORLD CLASS LEADERBOARD
This is an excellent third person perspective golfing simulation from US Gold. The graphics are ace, sporting some detailed course graphics and the sound is fab with sarcastic speech taking the Michael at every opportunity. With its four 18-hole courses, there's plenty of game for your money too. An essential buy.
OVERALL 92%

ALLEYWAY
A sad version of the ancient game, Breakout, this is one of the most simplistic, tedious and unchallenging games available on the Gameboy and should only be bought by simpering buffoons with more money than sense.
OVERALL 27%

BALLOON KID
Become a balloon's best friend in this rather weird floating collect 'em up. Not only is it strange, but it's also very dull. Things get repetitive very soon and the unresponsive controls don't do this cart any favours either.
OVERALL 51%

BART SIMPSON'S ESCAPE FROM CAMP DEADLY
Bart's been packed off to summer camp and he's not too happy about it. Help him escape in this multi-level platform game, throwing fruit, dodging other campers and generally having quite a smart time. An enjoyable if not overly original title which will take some beating.
OVERALL 85%

BASEBALL
With its two-player link-up option and addictive gameplay, Baseball is recommended to sports fans on the move.
OVERALL 75%

BATMAN
With small, but nicely detailed graphics and excellent sound, Batman is one of the most addictive Gameboy platform games around. Highly recommended.
OVERALL 91%

BATTLETOADS
Gasp! The evil Dark Queen has kidnapped two of the mighty Battletoads! You, as the third member Zitz, must now launch a rescue bid in this beat 'em up with platform overtones. Although the graphics are fiddly, this is a great game which any self respecting beat 'em up fan should have.
OVERALL 90%

BEACH VOLLEYBALL
Beach Volleyball is a frustratingly difficult console version of the sport where two teams of two battle on the beaches and attempt to rack up the most points. Once you get into the action, it's quite good fun, but doesn't really have the appeal of Tennis or Baseball.
OVERALL 64%

BOMBER BOY
This puzzle game caused something of a stir on the PC Engine - and the Gameboy version is just as good! You must place strategic bombs in an attempt to clear each screen of baddies before advancing onto the next, harder screen. Simple but very addictive, and the second (slightly different) version of the game included on the cartridge makes it great value.
OVERALL 88%

BOULDERDASH
Take the mantle of Rockford, diamond miner extraordinaire in this conversion of the age-old coin-op. Still, the gameplay is just as fresh as the day it was conceived, with many levels of puzzling as you try to grab the jewels and dodge the boulders and find your way to the exit without blocking yourself in. A challenging puzzle game with which to while away the hours.
OVERALL 90%

BUGS BUNNY'S CRAZY CASTLE
Oh dear, it seems that Bugs has misplaced all his carrots around his seventy-odd floor mansion. Now you must guide him through his pad to find the lot. Trouble is, his house is also patrolled by many mean creatures lusting for his bunny blood. They can have it as far as we're concerned, because Crazy Castle is a shambling, slow and repetitive attempt at a game.
OVERALL 39%

BURAI FIGHTER DELUXE
Take to the skies once more in this horizontally-scrolling shoot 'em up type story of a mega-powerful robot and his fight against injustice. The graphics are pretty good, there's always lots to do and the action is pretty fast paced. A decent quality shoot 'em up and no mistake.
OVERALL 83%

BURGERTIME
Burgertime must rank as the world's first fast food creation simulator. Now the coin-op of yesteryear has returned, and it's ideal Gameboy material. The idea is to drop burger ingredients into a dish from some platforms by running over them (not very hygienic), to make your job harder you are chased my monstrous pickles and hot dogs. Low on graphics but high on playability, Burgertime is a real laugh, although it does get very repetitive after the first few levels.
OVERALL 78%

CASTLEVANIA
Take control of Simon, a whip-wielding hero and battle your way through four large scrolling platform landscapes. The gameplay is addictive, and keeps you going for quite a while - but be prepared for some annoyance, because there are some nasty hidden surprises that don't make themselves apparent until it's too late to do anything about them.
OVERALL 79%

CASTLEVANIA II
A hundred years has passed and Dracula has arisen anew. Now Simon Belmont's grandson Solmeiyu must deal with the threat in another multi-level platform and whipping extravaganza. Castlevania II builds upon the original formula but makes it much harder, faster and less frustrating. Grab this one quickly.
OVERALL 91%

CHASE HQ
Oh dear, converting this coin-op to the Gameboy wasn't really a very good idea was it? Try as it might, the Gameboy just can't cope with the speed necessary to make this game really thrilling. The result is slow, sluggish and particularly tedious.
OVERALL 42%

CHESSMASTER
This chess sim has appeared on loads of formats, but this is the best version to date. The game is hard but logical and all the rules of chess are accounted for. The difficulty levels are well set, so beginners can pick it up straight away and grand masters won't find the going ridiculously easy. Best of all, of course, it's fully portable so you can exercise your brain at any time you like.
OVERALL 96%

CONTRA
Contra is a conversion of a coin-op better known in this country as Gryzor. It's a platform blaster for the most part, with a couple of maze levels thrown in for variety. It's fast, full of action and packs enough of a challenge to keep you going for some time. Blasting fans should give it a whirl.
OVERALL 91%

DOUBLE DRAGON
With great graphics and sound, Double Dragon is an excellent mini-replica of the classic arcade game, featuring all the original's thrills and spills. There's even a two-player link-up option for simultaneous vigilante antics! A must for beat 'em up fans.
OVERALL 83%

DOUBLE DRAGON II
Improves on the original with better graphics and gameplay. Some might find it a bit too similar to the first, but beat 'em up fans will love it!
OVERALL 88%

DRAGON'S LAIR
Not as we feared a conversion of the spectacularly bad coin-op, but in fact a completely original platform game. Spectacular graphics, great sound and frenetic action make this one to watch out for.
OVERALL 89%

DR MARIO
Nintendo's own Tetris clone makes it to the Gameboy, and it's great. Highly recommended to puzzle fans.
OVERALL 87%

DUCK TALES
Although there are loads of other platform games on the Gameboy, this one has unmistakable Disney graphical touch and oodles of playability. The problem is that it's not very hard, so expert gamers should give it a miss.
OVERALL 78%

F1 RACE
The first four-player Gameboy game is here - and it even comes with a free four-way adaptor! The game itself is an excellent OutRun-view race, with what must be some of the fastest scrolling seen on a Gameboy! Great fun and excellent value for money.
OVERALL 88%

FACEBALL
Faceball is a highly suspenseful maze game in which you never know what's around the corner. Atmospheric, original, entertaining and thoroughly recommended to those looking for something different.
OVERALL 91%

FINAL FANTASY II
Basically this is an RPG in the Zelda style with loads of locations to visit and people to meet, not to mention monsters to fight! In fact, it's only the drawn-out combat sequences that stop this from being a Megagame.
OVERALL 88%

FLIPPUL
Flippul is a highly original puzzle game which is recommended to people who like to use their brains rather than their joysticks.
OVERALL 83%

FORTRESS OF FEAR
A sort of medieval Double Dragon. The graphics and sound are good and the playability is solid enough to keep you coming back.
OVERALL 80%

GARGOYLE'S QUEST
Some pretty good gamesplaying skills are required to make your way around this game's unfriendly platform environment, but it's all very addictive, and should be checked out by hardened platform fans.
OVERALL 80%

GAUNTLET II
A perfect mini-replica of the classic coin-op that contains all the graphics (in black 'n' white), speech and playability of the coin-op. There's even a skill two-player mode. A must for Gauntlet fans.
OVERALL 88%

GHOSTBUSTERS II
With humorous graphics and some quite decent tunes, Ghostbusters II manages to both entertain and challenge, with six different missions to test your brains and reflexes. Well worth taking a look at.
OVERALL 81%

GOLF
This is a great golf game that plays a great game of golf. Need we say more?
OVERALL 88%

GREMLINS II
Once more it's platform a go-go with Gremlins II. As the Mogwai it's your job to rid the world of those troublesome Gremlins utilising the many traps and weapons littered around the landscape. Gremlins II is certainly challenging and it has some wonderful graphics.
OVERALL 80%

HYPER LODERUNNER
If you enjoy a really tough challenge, this platform game is highly recommended. Normal players, however, might find themselves wanting to smash the cartridge up after a couple of goes - it's that hard!
OVERALL 71%

KING OF THE ZOO
If you've ever wondered what zoo animals do all day long King of the Zoo will tell you - they play marbles. Yes, King of the Zoo is an entertaining marbles variant starring a number of cute creatures. It's a real laugh for a while - although the low number of opponents makes it quite easy to beat.
OVERALL 87%

KWIRK
This is a puzzle game where your tomato (!) must shift oddly shaped blocks into gaping holes to traverse mazes and reach the exit. It's really a sort of Soko Ban clone - but a lot more fun.
OVERALL 85%

LAST BATTLE
Last Battle is a one-on-one beat 'em up in which the player battles a variety of different opponents. It's quite fun at first, but the problem is that the moves are limited and the opponents are fairly easy to beat. The game provides some fun for a while, but really the action is just too dull to keep you enthralled for very long.
OVERALL 52%

MARBLE MADNESS
Guide your marble around a number of increasingly tricky slalom slopes, featuring many pitfalls such as acid pools, giant vacuums and even killer black marbles! This is one of those games which is perfectly suited to the Gameboy, and although it's short on levels, it's long on playability.
OVERALL 87%

MASTER KARATEKA
Featuring excellent, beautifully animated graphics and atmospheric sounds, Master Karateka is an enjoyable and addictive beat 'em up from the same designer that brought you Prince of Persia. Highly recommended.
OVERALL 87%

MICKEY MOUSE
Poor old Mickey's stuck in a nasty platform world where everyone's out to get him. It's simple, but is still pretty good fun, and there's a password system which lets you carry on from where you left off. Try it out if you're into mice.
OVERALL 72%

MONSTER TRUCKS
Monster trucks is something of an Super Off-Road Racer variant - but without the playability. The graphics are quite nice but there's no real compulsion to play. Wait for the official Super Off-Road.
OVERALL 65%

MOTOCROSS
Motocross has never been any weirder than in this off-road biking game! It's tricky, but is good fun - especially against a computer opponent - and provides plenty of amusement for a while.
OVERALL 76%

NAVY BLUE
Navy Blue is a console version of the old pencil and paper game Battleships, and as such it's a bit redundant. After all, for the price of the cartridge you could go out and by tons of paper and a gold-plated propelling pencil and play the game as much as you like. Still, Battleships fans should enjoy it.
OVERALL 61%

NAVY SEALS
This platform shoot 'em up is amazingly super hard. If you think you can ignore the lack of originality and you're a good enough gamesplayer not to get too frustrated, Navy Seals is well worth a look.
OVERALL 80%

NINTENDO WORLD CUP
This is a shambolic mockery of a clapped-out soccer game. There's no real control over your players, the computer has no knowledge of tactics and the responsiveness and collision detection are sadness incarnate.
OVERALL 31%

NEMESIS
A great conversion based on the classic coin-op. The graphics are quite nicely drawn, and the action is clear and easy-to-see. It's not simple, and shoot 'em up fans should really get into the action. Go for it!
OVERALL 88%

NFL FOOTBALL
When you look at the screenshots, this looks great. But once you see the crippled outcasts from a hunchbacks convention blurring their way around the screen like freeze-dried slugs you soon get put off. And when the action gets hectic, you end up with a writhing mass of pixels which you can't make head nor tail of. Give it a miss.
OVERALL 33%

OTHELLO
Although it mightn't look or sound it, Othello is an addictive and enjoyable board game which you'll go back to time and time again.
OVERALL 89%

PACHINKO TIME
Based on the Japanese ball-bearing games that are incredibly popular in the Land of the Rising Sun, Pachinko time suffers from the "unless you can speak Japanese you won't get anywhere in this game" blues. So unless you can speak the language, don't buy it.
OVERALL N/A

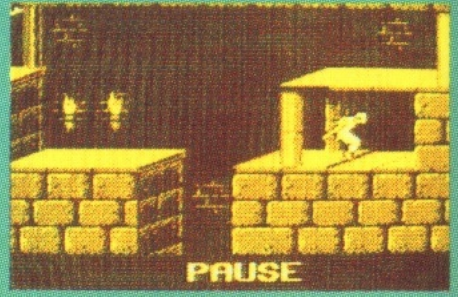
PACMAN
Pacman is as Pacman does, and this is as flawless a conversion of the crumbly arcade game as you will find. This will make some players leap for joy, others will find it enjoyable for a quick go now and then. Give it a go if you're a Pacfan.
OVERALL 80%

PAPERBOY
Ultra-blurry graphics, rubbish bike handling and dodgy collision detection are the three main flaws present in this disappointing conversion that will appeal to arcade fans only.
OVERALL 67%

PINBALL
Pinball features a three-screen-high flick-screen table which is complete with bumpers, flippers, drop targets and even hidden bonus screens! It's pretty tricky to play, but the ball movement is so realistic you find yourself tilting your Gameboy around to try and influence where the ball goes! It's all jolly fun and should go down well with the pinball wizards amongst us.
OVERALL 79%

PIPEDREAM
This is a conversion of a puzzle game better known over here as Pipemania in which pipes must be linked together in a chain to win the game. It's great fun, is highly addictive and is thoroughly recommended to puzzle fans.
OVERALL 87%

POPEYE
A conversion of the ancient Atari coin-op, Popeye has all the features of the original machine squeezed down to fit inside a Gameboy. There are four different screens in all, and while it's entertaining in the short-term, it hasn't got the lasting appeal to keep you playing for weeks.
OVERALL 68%



PRINCE OF PERSIA
This must rank as one of the greatest platform games of all time, and its combination of fiendish puzzles and pinpoint platform action certainly make this version a winner. Add to that the same spectacular animation and you have a definite must-buy cartridge.
OVERALL 92%

PUNISHER
It had to happen - at last there's an Operation Wolf-style game on the Gameboy. Contrary to our worst fears however, it's actually pretty good. The cursor movement is fast and responsive, the graphics are quite detailed and there's lotsadeath. What more could you ask for?
OVERALL 81%

QUARTH
Looking like a cross between Tetris and Space Invaders, Quarth is an enjoyable and addictive little game which offers plenty of challenge and lasting appeal. Try it out if you're after something different.
OVERALL 90%

QIX
Qix is a very strange game, but is nevertheless addictive. If it had been enhanced rather like PC Engine Volfied it would have been a real stunner. As it stands it's just an entertaining game which has plenty of long-lasting appeal.

OVERALL 81%

RC PRO AM
Those Rare guys are at it again - converting one of their fab NES carts to the Gameboy. This time it's of the isometric-view radio controlled car racing game. The body shop adds something to the game and it's certainly highly playable, even if it does suffer from a bit of a lack of variety.
OVERALL 87%

RESCUE OF PRINCESS BLOBETTE
NES Boy and His Blob was quite a laugh, so Lord knows where the programmers went wrong with this one. The puzzling jelly bean action would be fun, but there's too many wide open spaces where nothing happens. A shame.
OVERALL 68%

REVENGE OF THE 'GATOR
At last there's a great pinball game on the Gameboy, full of ramps, bumpers, multi-balls, bonuses and all the trappings you'd expect from a four-screen table. Pinball fans will relish it.
OVERALL 91%

ROBOCOP
This ranks as one of the most successful games of all time and was converted to almost every format known to man. This version is pretty good, but the small graphics make things like the targetting and face matching sections very difficult, which is a shame because otherwise it would be great.
OVERALL 72%

ROBOCOP II
Taking the platform elements of Robocop and ditching all the other sub-levels, Robocop II is much better than its predecessor. It's very hard and there are some unforgiving annoyances, but experienced gamers should love it.
OVERALL 90%

R-TYPE
The Gameboy now plays host to one of the best known shoot 'em ups ever. Use your top flying skills to survive in this pretty tough conversion of the coin-op. The graphics are pretty good and it's highly playable, although the small screen can make things a bit fiddly.
OVERALL 82%

SHANGHAI
Shanghai is a tile-shifting puzzle game that doesn't look very impressive, but keeps you coming back regularly game after game. It's really therapeutic, and is a great way to relax your brain after a hard day's work.
OVERALL 90%

SIDE POCKET
Side Pocket is a pool simulation in the best tradition. Playing is a matter of plotting ball angles and tapping the ball with the correct force required. Master ballistics professors will love this one, although anyone else's interest may wane pretty quickly.
OVERALL 73%

SOCCER BOY
Oh dear! Chronic, wheezing, swollen-headed footballers meander aimlessly around the screen attempting to kick a football that looks like it's filled with sand into badly-drawn goals. Even if you're the biggest football fan in the universe, don't get this. You'd be better off giving your money to charity than wasting it on this tosh.
OVERALL 16%

SKATE OR DIE (TOUR DE THRASH)
Whilst this has a promising title and looks like it might be fun, the implementation is poor. The main game is a just a viewed from behind showjumping variant. The bonus half-pipe event is quite entertaining but doesn't justify the price tag at all.
OVERALL 63%

SKATE OR DIE II (RAD 'N' BAD)
Skate or Die II is an entirely different game from the original. It's a super-speedy platform skate game with lots of montoya skate-style action to be had. If your interest in conventional platform games is waning, try this for size.
OVERALL 81%

SOKO BAN
This strange puzzle game involves the player moving boxes around store rooms. It doesn't sound exciting, and indeed it isn't, but the action is absorbing nonetheless, and puzzle fans should relish the considerable challenge.
OVERALL 78%

SOLAR STRIKER
After a couple of goes this up-the-screen shooter soon becomes boring. It's alright, but there are no real surprises to keep you going back to it.
OVERALL 69%

SPACE INVADERS
Space Invaders, the Grandaddy of all modern arcade games, appears on the Gameboy and looks exactly the same as it did when it first appeared in 1977. If you want to reminisce, do so by all means. But those more used to today's blasting games might become bored very quickly.
OVERALL 73%

SPIDERMAN
Spiderman is a thoroughly enjoyable beat 'em up which has some amazing graphics and plenty of variety. A must for wall-crawlers everywhere.
OVERALL 85%

SUPER KICK OFF
The greatest football game ever is now on the Gameboy and it's as good as could possibly be expected. Obviously the small, monochrome screen does present certain problems, but the speed and playability of the original are still there. Easily the best sports game on the Gameboy.
OVERALL 93%

SUPER MARIO LAND
Although this brilliant game doesn't take long to finish, there are loads of secret things to uncover and the gameplay's so good you just keep on going back to it! A must-buy for platform fans everywhere.
OVERALL 90%

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES
A decent beat 'em up with plenty of action and some great graphics to drool over. Turtle fans are bound to go bonkers over this.
OVERALL 90%

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES II
It's more of the same down in Turtle land. Another beat 'em up with large, clear and well-animated sprites along with a smidgen of platforming. It's harder than the original and there's also some sampled speech. Once again, Turtle fans will love this.
OVERALL 85%

TENNIS
One of the best Tennis games available on any system, this is challenging, addictive, and lets you play virtually any shot you could normally do with a racket. Highly recommended.
OVERALL 86%

TERMINATOR 2
As film licenses go, this must rank as one of the best going. There are only five levels, but there's plenty of variety, an enjoyable puzzle section (for once) and loads of action, along with great graphics and sound. It won't take too long to complete, but it's still a fab game.
OVERALL 90%

TETRIS
Free with the UK version of the Gameboy, this puzzle game is absolutely terrific and unbelievably addictive. It's incredibly easy to get into and is one of the best Gameboy games yet seen.
OVERALL 95%

WHO FRAMED ROGER RABBIT
Sure the film is knocking on a bit now, but that hasn't stopped Capcom from bringing out a new tie-in. It's a sort of RPG, with you as the eponymous rabbit who must search for clues and evidence to clear his name and defeat the nefarious villain at the end of it all. It's pretty good, but a little simplistic and none too challenging. Definitely one for less experienced role-players though.
OVERALL 77%

WWF SUPERSTARS
Get into the ring with famous names such as Hulk Hogan and the Ultimate Warrior, and then promptly get thrown back out. WWF has great graphics and loads of moves but the tournament is far too easy to win. If you have a second player around often, though, it's a great link-up game.
OVERALL 85%

ACTRAISER
Actraiser is a totally brilliant mixture of a Populous-style game and Rastan Saga platform action. Both game styles are exceptionally good to play and the music ranks as some of the best yet to issue forth from a console. Truly marvellous.
OVERALL 92%

AUGUSTA OPEN GOLF
This game adopts the usual style of 3D play, but this version has truly lovely graphics and amazingly realistic sound. The problem is that the display takes ages to build-up, making the pace of the game slow and unexciting. Wait until PGA Tour Golf appears on the Super NES.
OVERALL 61%

BATTLE DODGEBALL
This ultra-violent side-on scrolling game has a rather bizarre objective. Instead of scoring goals, it's your aim to chuck the ball straight at the opposing players. The ball injures them on contact, you see. The winner is the player with the most remaining players. Dull and graphically retarded, Battle Dodgeball is best avoided.
OVERALL 51%

BIG RUN
Jaleco's first Super NES release is an extremely poor interpretation of the flop coin-op. Big Run is quite fast, but it's very jerky and extremely easy to complete, and as such, is not recommended at all unless you get a big thrill out of wasting £40.00.
OVERALL 30%

BOMBUZAL
The isometric puzzle game was one of the first Super Famicom releases in Japan. Nintendo aren't bothering with it in the States or Europe because it's graphically dull, sonically retarded and isn't much fun to play either. Don't even buy it if you locate it in some bargain bucket somewhere - it's that dull.
OVERALL 43%

CHESSMASTER
The oldest surviving game of strategy hits the Super NES! Chess is chess really, but this version has an accomplished computer opponent with many difficulty levels. However, the graphics aren't great, and facing up to a human opponent over a real board is cheaper and a lot more fun.
OVERALL 77%

CONTRA SPIRITS
The finest 16-bit console shoot 'em up money can buy! Contra Spirits has all the blasting you'll require from a game along with incredible graphics, amazing orchestral soundtracks and uncanny addictive qualities! An essential buy!
OVERALL 95%

DARIUS TWIN
One of the earliest Super NES side-on shooters, this is an okay conversion of Taito's triple screen coin-op. The game's biggest draw is its simultaneous two-player action. The graphics are great, but the gameplay is unspectacular. Go for UN Squadron or Contra Spirits.
OVERALL 78%

DIMENSION FORCE
It's time to save the world again as you and your spaceship take the Last Train to Vertically Scrolling Blaster Central. This game is noted for its obnoxious graphics, jerky scrolling (especially when you fire), and vapid soundtracks. If you want to waste your money, set fire to it rather than exchange it for this game.

DRAKKEN
Using a mixture of sprites and vectors, this RPG is okay for fans of the genre. Fans of arcade action will instantly be put off by the non-excitement this offers and the lacking combat system.
OVERALL 61%

GRADIUS III
Konami's official conversion of Gradius III (or Vulcan Venture as its known in arcades in this country) is a decent enough horizontally scrolling shoot 'em up with excellent graphics and sound. However, the problem is that the game tends to slow down an awful lot and the sprites flicker. Ugh! UN Squadron or Super R-Type should be considered before this.
OVERALL 75%

FINAL FANTASY II
Once again we travel to RPG Land, where men look like refugees from Lowry's paintings and combat is a highly exciting affair taken in turns by each participant. The intro to this game is pretty good, but the quest itself is dull and tedious. This is best left alone, even by RPG fans.
OVERALL 42%

FINAL FIGHT
Capcom have a reputation for producing fine Super NES games, and Final Fight is no exception. It's very close to the coin-op original with one level, one character and the two-player mode removed. Beat 'em up fans will probably explode with excitement when they play this.
OVERALL 93%

FORMULA ONE EXHAUST HEAT
Get behind the wheel of your Formula One speedster and race around the major racing tracks of the world. Formula One Exhaust Heat is a super-fast, highly exciting version of the real sport and comes complete with battery backup which saves all your top performances. Well worth investing your English pounds sterling in.
OVERALL 91%

GUNDAM F91
This is a very obscure arcade/strategy game that was released in Japan, but not imported into this country in any great numbers. This isn't surprising considering that most of the text is in Japanese, making the game virtually unplayable.
OVERALL 49%

F-ZERO
This is one of Nintendo's flagship games for the Super NES, and it's not surprising! Featuring super-smooth amazing 3D graphics, along with high-speed action as you zoom around 15 different tracks, F-Zero is an essential purchase.
OVERALL 90%

HOLE-IN-ONE GOLF
Oo-er! Hole-In-One Golf is a rather sad attempt at a golf sim. First of all, rather unrealistically, the action is viewed from above and depicted with very uninspiring graphics. The game itself is dull and tedious to the extreme. Golfing fans are better off waiting for PGA Tour Golf.
OVERALL 49%

HOME ALONE
In this conversion of the massive movie, you take the role of young Kevin McAllister, who roams his (unrealistically) large mansion in search of treasures to hide and villains to deck with his water pistol (!). Home Alone is a retarded debacle with pitiful, wizened graphics and jarring, booming soundtracks. You'd have more fun sticking your money up your bum than wasting it on this vomit-inducing trash.
OVERALL 22%

HYPERZONE
Let's make no bones about it. Hyperzone is a scrolling 3D blaster with average graphics, warbling sounds and gameplay that's so completely unexciting, you'll want to forget that you ever bought it.
OVERALL 29%

JELLY BEAN
In this jolly game, you control a jelly bean that roams around scrolling platform levels getting up to all sorts of mischief as only a jelly bean can (?). People either love or hate Jelly Bean (Or Jerry Boy as it's known in Japan). Although it's all good fun, Super Mario and Castlevania IV are superior examples of the genre.
OVERALL 75%

JOE AND MAC: CAVEMAN NINJA
In this coin-op conversion, you run around prehistoric backdrops, beating up dinosaurs so you can rescue your girlfriend from a Gary Harrod lookalike. This is quite a close conversion, with only a few bonus levels missing, but it's quite easy to complete after a few sessions' play.
OVERALL 71%

JOHN MADDEN FOOTBALL
The version of John Madden currently available on import is disappointing compared to its Megadrive counterpart. It looks unfinished and has very flickery graphics, and the gameplay (although fun) is very rough around the edges. Wait for Nintendo's American football game to appear.
OVERALL 68%

LEGEND OF THE MYSTICAL NINJA
Also known as Goeman Warrior, this is a completely fab scrolling exploration game with beat 'em up and shooting elements. The graphics are mega-cute and brilliant to boot and the soundtracks are awesome. There's a stiff challenge here too, and the game will take ages to complete. An essential buy.
OVERALL 94%

LEMMINGS
Save those brainless, suicide-motivated Lemmings from an untimely death in this brilliant, fun game. The graphics and sound are okay, but it's the fresh, original gameplay that makes this the superb title that it is.
OVERALL 92%

PAPERBOY II
Paperboy returns in this multi-directionally scrolling effort. The aim is to deliver papers to all your subscribers whilst avoiding enemy sprites. The graphics are little better than the Master System version, and the extra directions you can go add nothing to the gameplay. Like Paperboy himself, this ultimately fails to deliver.
OVERALL 41%

PILOTWINGS
Take a trip to the Pilotwings academy for advanced flying in this visually stunning game. Hang-gliding, jet-packing, parachuting and plane-flying are all here to be enjoyed. Although the novelty does wear off after a while, Pilotwings still ranks as a highly playable, exquisite game.
OVERALL 90%

POPULOUS
Become God and make your followers and their settlements prosper, but beware of the devil who's doing exactly the same thing! Populous is difficult to control and has boring graphics and sound. The gameplay, though initially enjoyable, soon becomes quite dull.
OVERALL 77%

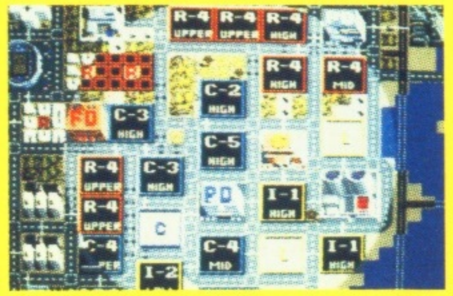
PRO BASEBALL
This Super NES version of one of America's top sports is much the same as any other baseball you've ever played with the same third person perspective view of the pitch. The actual gameplay itself is remarkably unimpressive and dull. We reckon that even baseball fans will sneer contemptuously at this lacking effort.
OVERALL 48%

PRO SOCCER
Lace up your boots and take to the eight-way scrolling overhead-view pitch in Pro Soccer. This is actually a very poor Super NES version of Kick Off - the greatest soccer game ever. Unrealistic play, poor controls and crap graphics seal this one's doom.
OVERALL 55%

RAIDEN TRAD
This vertically excursion into Blasterville, Arizona is very similar to the truly tragic Dimension Force. It has infantile graphics, wobbly sounds and scrolling that suffers from regular convulsions. Fans of the coin-op will feel cheated by this disabled conversion.
OVERALL 31%

THE ROCKETEER
Step into the boots of Cliff Secord - the man who finds a rocket pack in his plane and becomes... The Rocketeer! He scoots through boring races, tepid Cabal-style blasting sections and yawn-inducing horizontally scrolling levels in order to save the day. As you can tell, we don't like this game much and neither will you if you waste your money purchasing it.
OVERALL 40%

RPM RACING
This is actually a conversion of the brilliant C64 game, Racing Destruction Set. It enables two players to race around isometric scrolling tracks in custom cars. There's even a track editor to prolong the fun. Unfortunately, in the playability stakes this grows dull very quickly. In fact, the original C64 version is far superior.
OVERALL 67%



SIM CITY
In this highly original game, you create and nurture your own city, dealing with all the usual problems of over-crowding, pollution and various other environmental disasters. This might sound boring, but Sim City is actually very deep and involving and hours literally fly buy when you play it. A truly classic cart.
OVERALL 93%

SMASH TV
The brilliant Williams' coin-op of mass destruction hits the Super NES and how! Just about every level has been included, along with all the graphics, sound, speech and gameplay of the original. The two-player mode is also in there, making this one of the definitive console blasters.
OVERALL 93%

SOUL BLADER
Once again we return to RPG Land, but this time we're in a game that offer lots of fun and excitement, along with brain-bending puzzles aplenty. The graphics and sound are also of a high-quality, making for a cool game that's recommended.
OVERALL 84%

SPANKY'S QUEST
Spanky isn't some kind of perv as you might expect from someone with his moniker, but is in fact a monkey who bounces bubbles on his head and uses them to smash his foes (!!!) in a platform environment. The game is fun to begin with, but there's only so much excitement you can have with bubbles and monkeys called Spanky, and that doesn't turn out to be much at all.
OVERALL 55%

SUPER ADVENTURE ISLAND
You might as well ignore the title. This

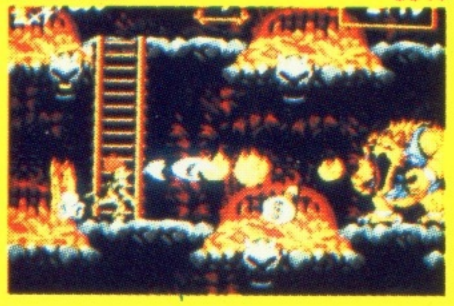
is actually Wonderboy on the Super NES, converted by the game's creators, Hudson Soft. This cart plays identically to Wonderboy but with enhanced graphics and amazing music to beef up the proceedings. It's good fun, but it can be completed pretty quickly.
OVERALL 78%

SUPER CASTLEVANIA
Simon Belmont is back! Once again, Drac is causing him a bit of aggro, so Simes tracks across the platform kingdom into Drac's castle and attempts to dust the Big D himself. Super Castlevania has truly excellent graphics, sound and gameplay, but it is a bit easy to complete for experienced players.
OVERALL 91%

SUPER DEFORMER GREAT BATTLE
This is a very early Super NES release that is best forgotten and sent to the bowels of a dusty vault, where it should remain forever. If you are interested in the game, it's got tiny, rubbish sprites, infantile backdrops and gameplay that's tedious to the extreme.
OVERALL 41%

SUPER EDF
This is very similar indeed to the Jaleco horizontally scrolling coin-op, which isn't something to be proud of considering that this game offers nothing new to the shoot 'em up genre, and even a games playing baboon can complete the game in one sitting. A woeful case of nice graphics, shame about the gameplay.
OVERALL 48%

SUPERFIRE PRO WRESTLING
As wrestling games go, you can't get much worse than the cartridge-based tragedy that is Superfire Pro Wrestling. The ring is laughably drawn, the sprites are jerky and unrealistic. The game itself is about as enjoyable as dowsing your best underpants with petrol, putting them on and setting fire to them.
OVERALL 39%



SUPER GHOULS 'N' GHOSTS
Once again, Sir Arthur's back to save his girlfriend from the perverse clutches of Lucifer in some more scrolling platform tomfoolery. Super Ghouls 'n' Ghosts has it all - brilliant graphics, amazing sound, awesome gameplay and a really tough challenge. An essential buy for your Super NES.
OVERALL 94%

SUPER MARIO BROTHERS IV
The man with the meanest dungarees in town is back for some more multi-directionally scrolling shenanigans as he attempts to save the Mushroom Worlds from the twisted Koopa. Boasting cool graphics, super sounds and AMAZING gameplay, Super Mario Brothers IV is probably the best video game in the world.
OVERALL 98%

SUPER OFF-ROAD
Tradewest introduce Super NES owners to the thrills of zooming around single-screen dirt tracks in 4x4 trucks. This improves on the coin-op in terms of playability and presentation, and with its highly competitive two-player mode, Super Off-Road is sure to go down well with racing fans.
OVERALL 87%

SUPER R-TYPE
Take on the might of the Bydo empire in this souped-up version of the classic horizontally scrolling coin-op. Super R-Type is great fun to play and has some great graphics. The problem is that the game slows down a lot and it's very easy to complete, with nothing more to see on the higher difficulty levels.
OVERALL 82%

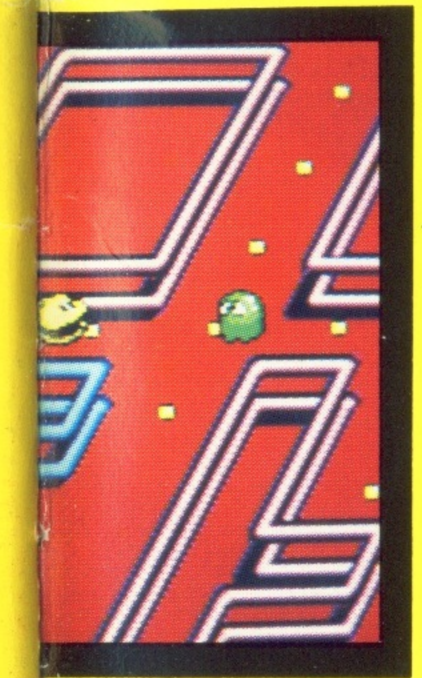
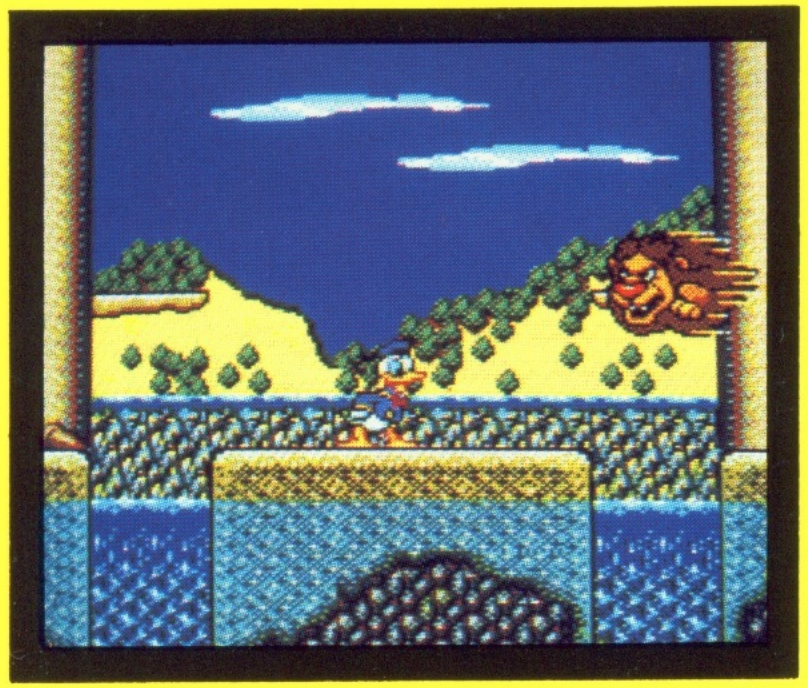
SUPER SOCCER
Soccer is soccer, only this time it's played out on a third person perspective spin 'n' scroll pitch. Although it's a treat to look at, there isn't much of the pitch viewed at once, making passing very difficult. The ball movement is also quite unrealistic. Technically polished, but lacking in the playability department Super Soccer is only really recommended to die-hard football fans.
OVERALL 79%

SUPER TENNIS
The Super NES' spin 'n' scroll graphics chips are used to create a fast, smooth third person perspective tennis court, populated by cute sprites that swear a lot (on the Japanese version). Super Tennis is the best tennis game ever produced. Its playability is unrivalled and as a two-player game, it's the tops!
OVERALL 94%

THUNDER SPIRITS
Essentially, this game is a straight conversion of the side-on shooter, Thunderforce III (a Megadrive game), with bits of Thunderforce II (another Megadrive game) added in for good measure. The graphics are quite tasty, but for the most part the game is very easy, with only the last boss putting up a decent fight.
OVERALL 73%

ULTRAMAN
Take control of the tackiest, cheesiest super hero of them all, Japan's very own Ultraman! This side-on scrolling one-on-one beat 'em up catches the atmosphere of the crappy movies perfectly, and although it's easy to complete, it is very amusing and diverting. It's no Street Fighter II, but it's the best laugh you'll get from the Super NES.
OVERALL 77%

UN SQUADRON
Known as Area 88 in Japan, this side-on scrolling shoot 'em up coin-op conversion isn't as technically amazing as Contra Spirits, but it's just as playable and even more lastable. The graphics are stunning, the sound decent and the gameplay highly exciting. Another Capcom winner.
OVERALL 94%

WWF WRESTLEMANIA
Those sweaty WWF wrestlers take to the Super NES in real style! Ten wrestlers, each with 20 moves, along with three different skill levels and modes of play make this one cool game. It's a tad too easy (even in HARD mode) and the two-player mode was ruined for us by one move that cannot be beaten. However, that move will take quite a while to find and WWF remains a skillful game that's highly recommended.
OVERALL 84%

ZELDA III
Link returns in this viewed-from-above scrolling quest with thousands of screens, loads of puzzles and some great graphics and sound. This is the definitive adventure game for the Super NES, but be sure to buy the American version of the game because the Japanese import version has lots and lots of indecipherable foreign text.
OVERALL 95%